Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-221 *16 November 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Commentary on U.S. Actions To Intensify Blockade *[Havana Radio]* 2
U.S. Accused of 'Harassing' Freighter to Russia *[Havana Radio]* 2
Vice President Meets Vietnamese Prime Minister *[Havana Radio]* 3
Cooperation Accords Signed With Uruguay, Argentina *[Havana Radio]* 3
Sports Agreement With Mexico Reaffirmed *[Havana Radio]* 3
Hart Attends Latin Culture Minister's Meeting *[Havana TV]* 3
Civil Defense Exercise Begins in Camaguey *[Havana Radio]* 3

Antigua and Barbuda

Common External Tariff To Be Introduced in 1993 *[CANA]* 4

Haiti

Police Surround Faculty; Arrest Students, Press *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Minister Reiterates 'Freedom of Speech' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Military Operation Reported in Port-au-Prince *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Army Conducts Searches; Discovers Weapons 12 Nov *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Mayor-Elect Paul Protests Action *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Army Denies Paul Allegation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5

Jamaica

Statistics Show Trade Gap Narrowing *[CANA]* 5

Trinidad and Tobago

Sugar Industry Seeks Joint Venture Partners *[CANA]* 6
Central Bank: Economic Decline 'Stabilized' *[CANA]* 7

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

Commonwealth Leader Welcomes Guatemalan Ruling *[CANA]* 8
Caricom Secretary General Carrington Begins Visit *[CANA]* 8
Canadian Officials Visit To Discuss Assistance *[CANA]* 8

El Salvador

TSE Denies FMLN Registration; FMLN Leader Reacts *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
Registration Tied to Demobilization *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
CD Rejects TSE Conditions *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
FMLN Commander on Fulfillment of Agreements *[San Salvador Radio]* 10
FMLN Demand Information on Seized Weapons *[San Salvador Radio]* 10
Foreign Envoys Express Satisfaction With Accords *[San Salvador Radio]* 11

Guatemala

Serrano Denies Torture, Denounces Conference *[EL GRAFICO 13 Nov]* 11
Special Police Force Guards Supreme Court *[PRENSA LIBRE 13 Nov]* 11

Honduras

Commentary: Clinton Win 'No Guarantee for Anyone' *[TIEMPO 13 Nov]* 12
Congress President Visits Cuba, Meets Castro *[TIEMPO 13 Nov]* 13

Nicaragua

Bomb Causes 'Slight Damage' During Demonstration *[NOTIMEX]* 13
Lacayo Announces New Disarmament Plan *[Managua TV]* 13
FSLN Issues Statement Rejecting Privatization *[Managua TV]* 13
Cesar 'Will Not Consider' Supreme Court Decision *[Mangua Radio]* 14
Former EPS Members Protest at Finance Ministry *[BARRICADA 10 Nov]* 14
Former Deputy Minister Extradition Petition Begins *[LA PRENSA 11 Nov]* 15

Panama

Preliminary Counts Indicate 'No' Vote on Referendum 16
Endara Congratulates Voters on Democracy *[Panama City TV]* 16
Vice President: 'Frustration' Confirmed *[Panama City Radio, TV]* 16
Opposition Leader Hails 'No' Victory *[Panama City TV]* 17
Electoral Tribunal President Comments *[Panama City Radio, TV]* 17
Police Chief: Problems 'Insignificant' *[Panama City Radio]* 18
Police Arrest Anti-Reform Front Members *[NOTIMEX]* 18
Newspaper Article Opposes Amendments *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 13 Nov]* 19
APR Members Refuse To Join National Networks *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 13 Nov]* 20
Vice President on PRD 'Government Junta' Proposal *[EL SIGLO 13 Nov]* 20

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

* UCR Intraparty Struggle Analyzed *[LA PRENSA 4 Oct]* 21
* Political Dialogue Between UCR, PJ Expected *[LA PRENSA 10 Oct]* 22

Brazil

Criminal Charges Not To Interfere With Impeachment *[Brasilia Radio]* 23
Lawyer Criticizes Charges Against Fernando Collor *[Brasilia Radio]* 23
Collor's Former Supporters Form Congressional Bloc *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 12 Nov]* 23
Navy Detains Japanese Boat in Territorial Waters *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 24

Chile

Situation at Peruvian Border 'Absolutely Normal' *[Santiago Radio]* 24

Colombia

Government Issues Three New Emergency Decrees *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24
Auditing Unit Formed; Immunity Decree Passed *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 25
TV Updates 'Offensive Against Subversion' *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 25
Army Uncovers Guerrilla Plan To Block Highways *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 26
Bomb Explodes at Acopi Installations in Capital *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 26
Escobar Escape Led to Military Leadership Changes *[Santa Fe de Bofota TV]* 27
Army Brigade, Division Commanders Appointed *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 27
Navy Commander Retires, Replacement Takes Over *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 28

Paraguay

Judge Suspends Colorado Party Internal Elections *[Asuncion TV]* 28
Rodriguez Endorses Suspension *[Asuncion TV]* 28
Colorado Factions React to Suspension *[HOY 14 Nov]* 29
Armed Forces Not To Intervene in Electoral Process *[ABC COLOR 14 Nov]* 29
Radio Accuses Wasmosy of Copying Argana Speech *[Lambare Radio]* 30
Argana Campaign Issues Statement *[ULTIMA HORA 13 Nov]* 30
Wasmosy Accuses Argana of 'Copying' *[ULTIMA HORA 13 Nov]* 31
'Nonradioactive Pollutants' Found Buried in Chaco *[NOTICIAS 15 Nov]* 31

Peru

Reportage on 13 Nov Army Officials' Coup Attempt 31
Presidency Issues Communique *[Lima Radio]* 31
Ministers Support Fujimori *[Lima TV]* 31
Authorities Identify Coup Leaders *[Lima TV]* 32
Military Confirms Arrest of Leader *[AFP]* 32
President Addresses Nation *[Lima Radio , TV]* 32
President Interviewed on Failed Attempt *[Lima Radio]* 33
High Command 'Discontent' Noted Over Decree *[Madrid EFE]* 43

Panama

On 15 November, Panamanians went to the polling stations to vote on a constitutional referendum, in which "hundreds of local and international observers" witnessed "the atmosphere of peace and tranquility that prevailed," reports Panama City TV. Upon learning of the rejection of the proposed reforms, President Endara stated: "As a democratic ruler, I accept the people's will" and that the current Constitution remains in effect "in the terms approved in the 1983 referendum." First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said the referendum vote results "have inspired trust among the Panamanian people" and "those who voted no did so, above all, as a form of protest against the government rather than to reject the constitutional reforms," reports Panama City radio. Ernesto Perez Balladares, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, added that many of the votes that were not cast were "protest votes" against the government and its PDC allies. Endara added that his government would be willing to support another attempt in the future, but that it must be done within a "constitutional framework," following the procedures established by the Constitution.

Peru

According to a communique issued by the Peruvian Presidency, on 13 November a small group of Army officials "attempted to take over the Army General Command and the Government Palace" to arrest "the commanding general of the Army" and kill the head of state, reports Lima Radio. The communique adds that the group's aim was "to prevent the electoral process for the Democratic Constituent Assembly" and install a new regime. The coup attempt was thwarted by the National Intelligence Service and the Armed Forces, and those involved were arrested.

Following the coup attempt, President Fujimori gave an address to the nation that was carried on a national network. Fujimori said that once the plan had been discovered, he left the Government Palace and let the coup attempt continue "so that the seditious act could continue and thus the ramifications of this criminal conspiracy could be detected." In response to the attempt, Fujimori said: "It is completely comdemnable that this unpatriotic attitude is linked to those who once wore the fatherland's uniform," referring to the retired officers who allegedly perpetrated the coup attempt.

Cuba

Commentary on U.S. Actions To Intensify Blockade

PA1311044892 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Miguel Cabrera commentary]

[Text] Those who are not paying attention to the U.S. policies against Cuba might think the measures adopted by George Bush are sporadic, meaning there is no specific period of time between one and the next.

The facts indicate, however, that Washington's aggressions against our revolution are practically carried out on a daily basis.

While the criticism, even from White House allies, against the Torricelli Law has not yet stopped, the U.S. State Department decided to expel Carlos Collazo, third secretary of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations.

FBI agents pressured the Cuban diplomat to defect and betray the revolutionary cause. Carlos Collazo refused to do so, in spite of the fact that the FBI agents told him he would suffer serious consequences if he did not accept the proposal. In light of the Cuban diplomat's firm posture, the U.S. State Department advised him to leave the country within 48 hours and defined him as a presumed Cuban intelligence agent.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry said the incident was an obvious aggression with a propagandistic twist, aimed at deteriorating the image of the Cuban Government and presenting it as a threat to the United States. [Havana Radio in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 14 November in a similar report adds: 'GRANMA affirms that the accusations of George Bush's government are based on a Miami television station report regarding an alleged contact between Collazo Usallan and Francisco Avilas, who is of Cuban origin and a leader of the Alpha-66 terrorist organization.

[As part of a new campaign against Cuba, a host of stories has been put out portraying Avilas as a double agent in an attempt to discredit Cuba's accusations regarding the approval and support given by Bush's government to the terrorist organizations which act from U.S. territory']

While all of the above was taking place, the U.S. State Department denied an entry visa to Cuban Public Health Minister Julio Teja, who was to participate in the 120th Annual Convention on American Public Health. In contrast with this arbitrary decision, which the United States uses every time it deems it convenient, the Cuban minister is the only candidate nominated for reelection to his office as vice president of that continental forum. In 1991, because he was denied a visa to enter the United States, Julio Teja was elected to that office in absentia. This proves the prestige of Cuban medicine.

To the expulsion of the member of the Cuban UN delegation and the denial of a visa to the public health minister, we can add the never ending lobbying and pressure by U.S. officials to prevent the discussion of the topic of the economic blockade against Cuba during the next UN General Assembly. The blockade is already over 30 years old.

This White House hostility toward Havana is an obsession, a task to undertake on a daily basis. That is how it has been since 1959, when the revolution won its victory on the island.

U.S. Accused of 'Harassing' Freighter to Russia

FL1411034492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] A helicopter, an airplane, and a U.S. Coast Guard ship carried out harassing actions against the Calixto Garcia Cuban freighter last Monday [9 November], while it was navigating in international waters. Between 1100 and 1200 hours on 9 November, while the ship was en route to Russia with a shipment of sugar at 61 km north of Punta Lucrecia, Holguin, a U.S. Coast Guard HH3F helicopter approached the side of the Cuban freighter at a distance of approximately 30 meters.

Reports from the ship's captain state that the helicopter fired seven or eight bombs, which were apparently smoke bombs, at two miles from the stern of the Cuban freighter. The helicopter later descended and picked up an unidentified object from the water. The Cuban freighter, on instruction from its owner enterprise, tried to communicate with the helicopter via established channels and did not receive a response. The military aircraft departed northbound at 1200 hours.

Later, at 1315 hours, a four-engine reconnaissance aircraft marked with U.S. Coast Guard insignia and a No. 1 on its prow passed twice over the ship at a distance of 50 to 100 meters. At 1410 hours on the same day, the Calixto Garcia reported that a Coast Guard ship marked WPB1318 approached to a distance of less than 500 meters and maintained position for at least 30 minutes. It accompanied the vessel and later departed northeast. On that occasion efforts were also made to establish communication with the U.S. Coast Guard ship, without response.

These harassing actions by the U.S. Coast Guard Service against a Cuban merchant ship are part of the hostile policy carried out by the U.S. authorities against Cuba. These actions are an attempt against the international right of free navigation. These actions could even have endangered the physical integrity of the Cuban vessel.

Vice President Meets Vietnamese Prime Minister

FL1311210592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, during his meeting today in Hanoi with Jaime Crombet, Cuban vice president of the Council of Ministers, said that the historical ties of friendship between the two countries will allow the strengthening of bilateral relations. The Vietnamese prime minister stressed that the visit of the Cuban delegation, headed by Jaime Crombet, has occurred at a very opportune time as an expression of mutual confidence and high fraternal spirit. Vo Van Kiet said that he follows closely the development of the situation in Cuba, whose example of strength and courage shows that there is no other road but defense of the revolutionary cause, which is also the cause of the Vietnamese people.

For his part, the Cuban vice president of the Council of Ministers explained the difficulties which Cuba is going through at this time, after losing 85 percent of its markets with the fall of the socialism in Europe. In evaluating his two-day visit to Vietnam, Crombet described his meetings with ministers and high-level officials of the Vietnamese Government as very worthwhile because, he said, they open immense cooperation prospects that are mutually advantageous despite the geographical distance between the two countries.

Cooperation Accords Signed With Uruguay, Argentina

FL1311213092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Interview with Dalia Charles, director of the National Angiology Institute by Lucy Gispert; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The National Angiology and Vascular Surgery Institute has signed cooperation agreements and letters of intent with representatives from Uruguay and Argentina in order to strengthen the exchange of experiences in this medical field. The signing ceremony was held during the second Panamerican Angiology Congress held in Havana.

[Charles] Various cooperation agreements have been signed with countries such as Argentina, for example, with the (Paracelsus Foundation) and some letters of intent with Venezuela, Switzerland, and a few other countries.

[Gispert] These agreements provide for the exchange of scientific-technical experience and training?

[Charles] Yes, exchanges of information and also of personnel in order to exchange information, and to develop some research that will be done jointly.

[Gispert] According to what you have been able to observe, what is the consensus about Cuba's development of surgery and angiology?

[Charles] They have really been a little surprised at the degree of development of this speciality in Cuba because they do not have a lot of information, as you know. The problems of the embargo sometimes do not allow them to learn what we are doing. They were surprised at the things we have been developing, this country's scientific-technical levels in angiology.

[Gispert] Starting now, professionals from these countries will carry out more intense exchanges of their information, debate research methods, and choose a date for future meetings. One more response to the U.S. Government's efforts to impose bans on this kind of exchanges with Cuban doctors.

Sports Agreement With Mexico Reaffirmed

FL1511221492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Cuba and Mexico have endorsed the continuation of their traditional athletic ties with the signing of a document corresponding to 1993 by Conrado Martinez, president of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute, and Raul Gonzalez, president of the National Sports Commission of Mexico. Martinez and Gonzalez were responsible for coordinating the cooperation between the two nations. The 1993 agreement calls for using approximately 200 Cuban trainers as advisers in 17 sports. The agreement increases the number of Cuban trainers by 43, which reflects the quality of the Cuban trainers in the area of sports.

Raul Gonzalez said that the signing of this agreement represents the beginning of the Mexican nation's self-determination, mutual respect, and sovereignty and that it strengthens the ties of friendship between the two peoples.

Hart Attends Latin Culture Minister's Meeting

FL1611025192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Today, in Caracas, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart said that the Torricelli Bill is evidence that Washington can not continue covering up the incoherency of its system. Hart, who is presently in the Venezuelan capital attending a meeting of Latin American ministers of culture, added that the Torricelli Bill violates essential principles of world capitalism. Hart said that it is evidence that something in the United States, the country that best represents the capitalist system, is not right.

Civil Defense Exercise Begins in Camaguey

FL1311145892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Today, the Agramonte 92 Civil Defense Exercise has began throughout Camaguey Province in order to explain the plans of preplanned measures to move the economy toward war-time conditions. This kind of

training involves defense councils, military units, enterprises, administrative groups, and mass organizations, whose leadership will determine the tasks to guarantee the protection of the population and maintain the stability of daily labor tasks, in its execution.

The exercise plans for the population to be instructed in conduct procedures in cases of aggression. As a result of the imminently practical nature of the exercise, Agramonte 92 will include exercises for the protection of animals and plants at agriculture-livestock centers; training for chemical attacks; in addition to testing the public broadcast system in case of air raids.

Antigua and Barbuda

Common External Tariff To Be Introduced in 1993

FL1311235292 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Nov 13, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda will introduce the controversial Common External Tariff (CET) by the first half of 1993, Planning and Trade Minister Lester Bird, has reported.

Antigua and Barbuda is one of a few countries in the Caribbean Community yet to implement the tax measure against goods produced outside the region.

"Because of the small variance between the agreed rates and those which currently apply in Antigua and Barbuda, it is anticipated that there will be no significant change in the cost of living in Antigua and Barbuda when the new rates are implemented in the first half of 1993," Bird said.

The comment followed agreement by community heads of government last month to reduce the tariff levels. Antigua and Barbuda had been pushing for a reduction of the rates, complaining of the impact the original CET levels would have on the cost of living.

Bird said: "In cases where the new rate structure would substantially affect the cost of a particular product, the cabinet.... has decided on a policy whereby it would implement some more measures to minimize the adverse effect on the cost of living and loss of revenue."

Haiti

Police Surround Faculty; Arrest Students, Press

FL1311140592 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1130 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] On 12 November, the military once again surrounded the Faculty of Sciences and proceeded to arrest students and journalists. This incident occurred during a public debate organized by the National Federation of Haitian Students to mark the first anniversary of a police raid during which students and journalists were arrested at this same faculty. In the same setting, one year later, Clarens Renois and Jean-Max Blanc, who work in the Radio Metropole news room, were apprehended and taken to the Investigation and Anti-Gang Service of the Port-au-Prince Police. Four students were also apprehended. The journalists were freed half an hour later. Their recorders, however, were broken and their press cards were confiscated.

Minister Reiterates 'Freedom of Speech'

FL1311221092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Interview with Information Minister Andre Calixte by Edner Jean; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Information Minister Andre Calixte did not want to formally condemn the arrest of the journalists on 12 November at the Faculty of Sciences. However, he reiterated the willingness of his government to guarantee freedom of speech.

Let us listen to Andre Calixte in Edner Jean's microphone:

[Begin recording] [Calixte] I am aware of their arrest and, fortunately, their release. I was pleased because I always said that I guaranteed freedom of speech.

[Jean] Can we still talk of freedom of speech, Mr. Minister, when journalists are arrested in the exercise of their function?

[Calixte] I was not present. I do not know exactly what prompted the policemen to arrest them.

[Jean] Those journalists were not, however, caught redhanded. The Anti-Gang commander recognized that, Mr. Minister.

[Calixte] That is why they were quickly released.

[Jean] You, information minister of the consensus government; you, the ministry for the protection of journalists: Can you still give some formal guarantees for freedom of speech in Haiti?

[Calixte] I have already said so. I will maintain it. The characteristic of this government, working toward democracy, is trying to implement even more democracy.

[Jean] The impression one has is that your government does not have any real control over the police forces.

[Calixte] It happens in all countries. [repeats] It happens in all countries.

[Jean] That is rather an excuse—that it can happen again because it happens in all countries.

[Calixte] No. There are some cases that can be considered exceptional. Some isolated incidents occur and no one can do anything about those cases. [end recording]

Military Operation Reported in Port-au-Prince

FL1311222192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] A large-scale military operation took place on 12 November in Port-au-Prince, with deployment of men from all units and demonstrations of fire power and heavy weapons on vehicles. In some neighborhoods through which members of the operation passed, armored tanks were noticed. The largest operation seems to have taken place in Tabarre, in Plaine du Cul-de-Sac.

Army Conducts Searches; Discovers Weapons 12 Nov

FL1311173292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces reports that on the morning of 12 November routine exercises were undertaken. The Army conducted many searches in areas such as in Santo, Marin, Lilavois, and the neighboring areas. Those searches resulted in the discovery of many weapons and other materials. The people they arrested will have to appear before judges within the time limit required by the law. This communique is signed by the secretariat of the general staff.

Mayor-Elect Paul Protests Action

FL1311214692 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1700 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] On 12 November, armed military men deployed a persuasion [as heard] operation in the various neighborhoods of the capital where they searched several houses including that of Mayor-Elect Evans Paul in Plaine du Cul-de-Sac. Paul told us that this search was illegal and denounced the latest unfortunate mistakes of the Army. Let us listen to him.

[Begin Paul recording, in Creole] I began to believe that the Army was ready to respect the principles of the law when I heard about the measures they took against the Anse-a-Pitre warrant officer because he had arrested a senator, a mayor, a justice of the peace, and other citizens who were meeting. Then, I noted that citizen Manno Charlemagne, who entered his country, had been sent back [into exile].

While the National Federation of Haitian Students was meeting at the Faculty of Sciences, the Army raided the faculty, manhandled journalists, and arrested students. On the same day, several citizens in Plaine du Cul-de-Sac were the victims of an illegal search operation. During this operation, they dropped into my home in Plaine du Cul-de-Sac. They took books, documents, and pictures of members of my family that were on display in my living room, and said they would come back.

While protesting all those arbitrary actions, I take the opportunity to ask the Army to give me back all that they took from my home. I am saying that the Army does not have the right to enter anybody's home without the presence of a justice of the peace. [end recording]

Army Denies Paul Allegation

FL1611173592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] carried out a search operation in Carrefour, concentrating on the area of Waney and Mahotiere on 14 November. Many heavily-armed soldiers participated in the operation. A communique issued by the Secretariat of the General Staff advises that they discovered many weapons, ammunition, military uniforms, and many drugs. The search operation resulted in many arrests. The FADH announced that all those arrested will be brought before the court within the time limit set by law.

On 12 November, the FADH carried out an important search operation in the areas of Tabarre, Santo, and Lilavois where they also discovered many weapons, ammunition, and military uniforms, and made arrests. Port-au-Prince Mayor-elect Evans Paul condemned these searches as illegal. He said the military searched his home and removed books, important documents, and pictures. An FADH General Headquarters communique denied this information: The General Staff Secretariat said it is completely untrue because at the time of the search they did not enter the home of National Front for Change and Democracy spokesman Evans Paul.

This series of search activities took place as the Army prepares to celebrate 18 November, one of the major dates marking the history of the Army in Haiti. This year, military authorities organized many activities, especially in sports.

Jamaica

Statistics Show Trade Gap Narrowing

FL1411003892 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 13, CANA—Jamaica's merchandise trade deficit narrowed by US38 million dollars or 15.2 per cent for the 1992 first half, according to figures released here by the Statistical Institute (Statin).

But a near US42.9 million dollars or near 13 per cent fall in the value of exports provided a sharp drag down on export earnings and underlying continuing concerns about markets for the bauxite/alumina industry.

The Statin figures showed that Jamaica's imports for the 1992 first half stood at US770.3 million dollars, a US116.5 million dollars or 13.1 per cent drop on the US886.9 million dollars for the first six months of 1991.

The decline in the value of imports would, in part, reflect the effects of a sharp decline in the Jamaican dollar during the first quarter and a level of success in the

government's efforts at demand management when it pushed up interest rates to suck up liquidity.

During the period, the value of capital goods imports fell a hefty 45.4 to US120.1 million dollars.

But Statin did not provide an analysis of the reasons behind the dip - whether demand for capital equipment had satisfied or whether the fall was likely to impact negatively on overall production.

However, raw material imports were down less than one per cent at US526 million dollars. Consumer goods dropped 10 per cent to US124.3 million dollars.

The institute noted that the decline in earnings from the mining sector, reflected in the "crude materials" section, plus a US8.3 million dollar fall in food exports, combined to reduce overall exports by 12.3 per cent to US559.3 million dollars.

The price Jamaica gets for its bauxite and alumina export is linked to the cost of aluminium it got on the world market and that was soft during the first half. But there was a bright spot in the export figures - miscellaneous manufactures, boosted by apparel exports, were up by US38 million dollars.

However, Statin, in dealing with the trade figures stressed the distorting function of a sale-leaseback arrangement for two Air Jamaica aircraft in 1991. They had a re-export value of US65.2 million dollars.

"Excluding the re-export value of the two aircraft from 1991 trade, the fall in earnings would have been US13.5 million dollars," the agency noted.

Conversely, with the elimination of the plan deal, the overall imports would be down US51.4 million dollars.

Trinidad and Tobago

Sugar Industry Seeks Joint Venture Partners

FL1411002792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 13, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's agriculture minister says that the country's sugar industry will not be shut down and joint-venture partners are being sought to help make it viable.

Dr. Keith Rowley also told a long service award of state-owned Caroni Limited, which runs the industry here, that the government intends to heighten its role in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) as the region's only producer of refined sugar.

Dismissing rumours about a report from Booker and Tate, the former British owners of the sugar factory, Rowley denied that there was a "hidden agenda" to partially close or shut down the operations of the company as suggested by some people.

"The government is not proceeding along any of these lines," Rowley said, adding that it was commited to a joint report by Caroni, the labour union and the government, which has developed an action plan for the company.

Stating that government was seeking to expand the industry from 110,000 tons of sugar a year to 125,000 tons, the minister said one of the central recommendations to give the company a fresh start was to write off accumulated debts of more than two billion dollars (one TT dollar - 23.5 US cents) and servicing substantial loans to the company.

"The aim here is to make the company a bankable entity with the ability to attract investment," he said.

The British Commonwealth Development Corporation, he said, was invited to Trinidad to see whether the industry can attract some funds.

"In the harsh economic climate in which we find ourselves, we have no option but to seek to attract joint venture partners into the industry, and our financial and organisational restructuring are calculated partly with this in mind," he remarked.

"They are also calculated to send the clearest possible signal that Caroni is being transformed from a company in which sugar operations are the dominant interest to a much more broad-based agro-industrial enterprise."

Rowley said particular attention was being paid to acquaculture, rice, citrus and livestock for which commercial feasibility is to be studied. Another major area of diversification was land development. In accordance with the tripartite report, debenture on company's land will be released.

"The company will thereby be put in a better position to rationalise its landholding, to develop land for commercial, residential purposes and to treat with its tenants in a mutually beneficial manner."

He added that the government was also going to review the Agricultural Small Holding Act with the intention of eliminating the strictures on land use in the country.

Rowley told the sugar workers that the country was also positioning itself to take advantage of its role as the only producer of refined sugar in the Caribbean region. At the Caribbean Community heads of government conference held here in July, he said, the government took the opportunity to lobby for a more secure future for raw sugar exports in foreign markets and an expanded role for refined sugar in Caricom.

"To those ends, the heads of government of Caricom countries agreed to appoint a high-powered team headed by the president of Guyana to travel abroad in the interest of the region's sugar industries," he said.

"They also agreed that Caricom should source its refined sugar from within the region, i.e., Trinidad and Tobago."

Central Bank: Economic Decline 'Stabilized'

FL1411004992 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 13 Nov 92

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 13, CANA—The governor of Trinidad and Tobago's Central Bank, Ainsworth Harewood says that despite contraction in projected growth, there were clear indicators that the economic decline has been stabilized.

Following seven years of decline, the Trinidad and Tobago economy registered 1.8 per cent growth at the end of 1991 and 1.8 per cent growth during the first quarter of this year. But during the second quarter, there was a 1.9 per cent decline as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Harewood told the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago, that there has been a surge in imports and a drain on the foreign reserves because of the country's open economy and the situation was accentuated by capital flight during the run up to the 1992 general elections. In addition, there was speculation that there would be a change in the exchange rate.

During the first half of last year, private sector credit rose by nine per cent and was associated by an increase in imports which exceeded the corresponding period of 1990 by some 500 million dollars (one TT dollar - 23.5 US cents).

There was also a doubling of net sales of foreign exchange to commercial banks. "It became necessary therefore towards the end of 1991 and throughout 1992 to tighten both fiscal and monetary policies in order to stabilise the situation," he said.

This, said Harewood, resulted in a significant contraction of the liquidity in the financial system and a consequential jump in interest rates, with the basic prime rate reaching an unprecedented level of 15.5 per cent.

He said the measures have been successful in containing the drain on the foreign reserves, while private sector credit, on a year to year basis, to August this year fell by 4.9 per cent with imports being drastically reduced. "At the same time, however, economic activity contracted with the projected growth rate being adjusted downwards to a mere 0.3 per cent," he said.

"Yet, there are clear indications that the situation has indeed been stabilised and there is now a basis for proceeding into a new phase of adjustment with growth over the medium term," he said.

Some of these indicators, said Harewood, included foreign reserves being progressively replenished and improving by some US 100 million dollars during the second and third quarters of 1992, while fiscal and monetary discipline have been restored.

He said the 1992 budget pushed the rate of inflation on a year-to-year basis as at June to 7.1 per cent. The underlying rate was estimated between 3.5 and 4.0 per cent.

In addition, the debt service ratio which is over 30 per cent as a result of the conclusion of debt relief arrangements with the Paris Club and the international commercial banks will be reduced to manageable proportions over the next few years, said Harewood.

Stating that the support of the international financial community was assured, the governor said a mix of projects amounting to over US 500 million dollars was in the pipeline with the Inter-American Development Bank for implementation over the next few years. This will cover areas such as road rehabilitation, tourism, urban development, health and agriculture.

In addition, a loan of US 260 million dollars was already approved for the petroleum sector and there was a successful flotation of a US 100 million dollar bond issue.

Harewood said large international companies have also been showing increased confidence and preparedness to implement major investment projects in the country.

"This is not to say that the task ahead is an easy one. On the contrary, experience both here and elsewhere has shown that it is fraught with pitfalls," he remarked.

"We will be continuously confronted by difficult choices," he said, which included the allocation of expenditures between productive investments and social items, and the apportionment of incomes between savings and consumption.

Belize

Commonwealth Leader Welcomes Guatemalan Ruling

FL1411185092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] London, Nov 14, CANA—The Commonwealth secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, on Saturday [14 November] welcomed the ruling by the Guatemalan Constitutional Court in favour of President Jorge Serrano's historic decision to recognise the independence of Belize and to establish diplomatic relations between their two countries. The possibility of the long-awaited recognition being overturned had been the source of grave concern not only to the parties but also to a region actively seeking peaceful co-existence, a statement from the Commonwealth Secretariat said.

The secretary-general said he was sure this positive development would be warmly welcomed not only throughout the Commonwealth, but also by the wider international community. He added: "At a time when the quest for effective methods of promoting international peace, security, and good neighbourliness is being intensified, it must be hoped that this landmark decision will be recognised by the Guatemalan people for the courageous and visionary step that it is."

A long-standing Guatemalan claim to Belize had for years strained relations between the two neighbours. In recent years, ties have improved.

Caricom Secretary General Carrington Begins Visit

FL1111162592 Bridgetown CANA in English 1340 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Belize City, Nov 11, CANA—Caribbean Community [Caricom] Secretary General Edwin Carrington will make an official visit to Belize from Wednesday [11 November]. The Belize Information Service said Dr. Carrington's primary reason for visiting Belize is to sign the articles of association for the Caribbean Citrus Association.

Carrington will also be undertaking a number of field trips to different parts of the country. Carrington will hold a press conference Wednesday afternoon at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City.

Canadian Officials Visit To Discuss Assistance

FL1011131992 Bridgetown CANA in English 1226 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Belize City, Nov 10, CANA—A group of Canadian officials, including a mayor, is on an eight-day working visit to Belize. The group comprises city officials and representatives from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. The delegation is headed by Don Mitchell, mayor of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

The Canadians will be helping Belize in technical, infrastructural, and preventative maintenance, relative to streets and drainage. The Canadians will also be meeting with officers of various government departments, statutory bodies, and private corporations.

A spokesperson for the Belize City Council says the meeting is to see how best their assistance could be spread throughout areas of service within Belize City. Belize City and the City of Moose Jaw established sister city relations in 1990, when the then mayor Steven Latchman made an official visit to Moose Jaw.

El Salvador

TSE Denies FMLN Registration; FMLN Leader Reacts

PA1511025492 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] on 13 November denied the registration of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] as a political party until the United Nations certifies that this political group is completely disarmed. A TSE resolution, however, indicates the FMLN has complied with all legal requirements, but nevertheless, it must disarm before it can register.

The TSE resolution was first revealed to EL DIARIO DE HOY; Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena]; and parties akin to the ruling Arena. As a result, the FMLN demanded an investigation of this anomaly, because the TSE resolution should have been revealed first to the interested party, which is the FMLN in this case.

In the opinion of the FMLN's Norma Guevara, the TSE decision not to register the FMLN as a political party is creating an obstacle to its legalization. She described the demand that the United Nations confirm the FMLN is completely disarmed as out of order:

[Begin Guevara recording] The most important aspect of the TSE decision is that it accepted that the FMLN has complied with all legal requirements and the special decree issued to facilitate the FMLN's registration as a party. The TSE invented an additional requirement: The petitioners, Eugenio Chicas and yours truly, must present a written UN certification.

This means complying with domestic legislation is not enough because they are UN subordinates, although the rescheduling accepted by the president of the republic,

United Nations, and FMLN established a fair deadline to comply fully with the requisites needed by both the TSE and FMLN.

We will file an appeal on 14 November. We want the TSE to rectify this resolution. We want it to abide by Decree No. 303 that is in force until 27 November. After that date, any resolution will be illegal. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Rutilio Aguilera, National Conciliation Party [PCN] representative to the TSE, rejected Norma Guevara's accusations and said the TSE is simply complying with the electoral law, which does not allow the registration of armed political parties. He added that it is regrettable that the TSE resolution was revealed to others and the interested party was not notified directly first. However, Aguilera did not say whether an investigation will be conducted to determine who was responsible:

[Begin Aguilera recording] The PCN, through me—I am the principal PCN magistrate—wishes to report that the principal magistrate before the TSE has always tried to cooperate to ensure that democracy becomes a reality. This means we always have been willing to ensure the registration of all political groups, requesting it is done within the specific framework of current legal provisions.

I flatly reject any charge that the PCN representative could have obstructed the registration application of political parties, specifically, that of the FMLN. I also wish to report that the TSE made a decision on 12 November regarding the FMLN registration application. That decision was conveyed to the FMLN on the morning of 13 November.

The reasons for the TSE decision are the following: First, the FMLN has complied with the various requirements established by the Electoral Code for its registration. This means it has fulfilled the requirements on signatures, bylaws, and other points established by the code. There is an aspect that is clearly stated in the reasons given for the TSE decision. This involves the provisions established by constitutional Article 7 which states that no political, religious, or labor group can be armed. Secondly, as constitutional Article 235 establishes, all civilian and military officials are duty bound to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, regardless of the decisions of any other legal institution. For these reasons, the TSE has decided that the FMLN petitioners must present UN certification that the FMLN has been completely disarmed. Once the FMLN presents such a document from the United Nations, the tribunal will decide if the FMLN can be registered as a party within 24 hours. Its bylaws will be published and the appropriate process will be carried out within 24 hours. [end recording]

Aguilera denied the TSE had accepted all the objections presented by right-wing personalities and other organizations. He said it will respond to those objections in due time and that the decision issued by the TSE on 12 November has nothing to do with these objections.

Registration Tied to Demobilization

PA1311200792 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] It was announced on 13 November the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] has decided not to register the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] as a party until the FMLN fighters have completely disarmed. The TSE reported in a brief resolution that the FMLN will be registered as a political party 24 hours after its military forces have completely demobilized on 15 December as scheduled.

The TSE resolution says once the fighters have demobilized, the FMLN representatives should present to the TSE a certification issued by the UN observers, after which it will be granted status as a legal political party.

A TSE spokesman said the decision not to register the FMLN before it completely disarms is intended to prevent a disruption of the country's legal system.

The political opposition and the FMLN have rejected the resolution adopted by the representatives of the ruling Nationalist Republican Party and the conservative National Conciliation Party. They said this action denotes an unwillingness to comply with the peace agreement.

Registration of the FMLN as a political party should be accomplished by 27 November, according to the agreements reached by the government and the FMLN on setting a new timetable for implementation of the peace agreements.

CD Rejects TSE Conditions

PA1411031592 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report by Guillermo Rivera]

[Text] Pedro Monterrosa, deputy magistrate for the Democratic Convergence Party [CD], said before the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] that his political coalition rejects the TSE resolution placing conditions on the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] legal registration as a political party.

[Begin recording] [Rivera] Radio Farabundo Marti listeners, we will now talk for a moment with Pedro Monterrosa, deputy magistrate for the CD before the TSE. Would you explain the resolution issued by the TSE on the registration of the FMLN? What is the CD's position?

[Monterrosa] The main point of the TSE resolution issued on 12 November states that a final ruling on the request for legal registration presented by the FMLN will be withheld until the UN Observers for EL Salvador [Onusal] certifies that all FMLN forces have been adequately demobilized and disarmed. That means the TSE is simply postponing a decision on the FMLN's legal registration as a political party until after 15 December, according to the recent rescheduling of the peace agreement implementation process. The CD magistrates'

position on this is a total rejection of the resolution. We believe the citizens who have worked to form the FMLN political party and who have followed the procedure to legally register it at the TSE are all citizens who enjoy their full political rights. They have demobilized and it cannot be said that they constitute an armed group. Given the fact that they have submitted to this [word indistinct], the party's legal registration must be granted. They have not violated the constitutional provision that prohibits any armed group from forming a political party. The former FMLN fighters, or the 40 percent that have yet to be demobilized, are now at the designated concentration sites with all the FMLN' weapons under Onusal supervision. Therefore, It cannot be alleged that the FMLN continues to have armed personnel and on that basis should not be granted legal status.

We believe this is nothing more than a scheme, a maneuver to delay and impede the positive completion of the registration process.

[Rivera] Magistrate, could you tell us how the TSE's attitude will affect the process, especially as you have said that the members of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], the National Conciliation Party [PCN], and the Christian Democratic Party were involved in the decision to defer the ruling, right?

[Monterrosa] No. The decision was reached with the favorable votes of TSE President Luis Arturo Saldivar and the magistrates representing Arena and the PCN.

As it stands now, the resolution completely violates Executive Decree 303, which was issued specifically to allow the FMLN's legal registration. They are violating a decree that clearly and specifically orders the TSE to decide either yes or no on the registration on 13 November. It could give no other ruling than that.

[Rivera] Will it affect the peace process?

[Monterrosa] I think it will. This is one of the issues that was clearly addressed in the rescheduling process in order to ensure the positive completion of the peace agreement implementation process, along with the disbanding of the remaining 40 percent of FMLN personnel on 15 December and the requirements the government must meet. Now, however, eight days before the government is to sign the new timetable proposed by the UN Secretary General, we see them obstructing the FMLN's political registration process, which is a clear demonstration of their unwillingness to comply. [end recording]

FMLN Commander on Fulfillment of Agreements

PA1411031192 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has stated that there is a commitment by the government and the Army to fulfill all the peace agreements to correspond with the demobilization and destruction of FMLN weapons.

The member of the FMLN General Command granted this radio station an exclusive interview. He stated that President Alfredo Cristiani has also made a commitment to heed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission. However, the UN secretary general must be informed of this before the FMLN starts the destruction of weapons, scheduled for 1 December.

Commander Gonzalez said the FMLN is satisfied by the agreements reached during UN Envoy Alvaro de Soto's visit and ratified their willingness to carry out the fourth demobilization of FMLN troops on 20 November.

With regard to the FMLN's weapons inventory, about which the UN secretary general earlier hinted at reservations, Commander Gonzalez said there is a firm commitment by the FMLN to fulfill this requirement and that Onusal's [UN Observers for El Salvador] military division will undertake verifications in situ during the week of 16 November.

Furthermore, Leonel Gonzalez urged the people to cooperate with Onusal and Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] so that the collection of weapons that should be used exclusively by the Armed Forces may be fulfilled, thus guaranteeing the agreements because there are death squads and illegal groups that are using this weaponry which is only authorized for use by the Armed Forces.

Finally, the FMLN leader said that on 15 December, the last day of the cease-fire, the FMLN will demobilize its army completely, after the country has started an irreversible process of democratic transformations attained through the peace agreements.

FMLN Demand Information on Seized Weapons

PA1311153492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla organizations have demanded the Army explain what it plans for weapons seized from the rebels during 12 years of war, which concluded with the signing of peace accords in January.

In a communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], Aquiles Montalvo, aka Commander Salvador Guerra, said all businessmen, land owners, and oligarchs must turn in the guerrilla weapons the Armed Forces sent them during the war.

According to the guerrilla leader, the Army delivered the weapons to civilians and paramilitary groups in the country, and he demanded the Army turn in a list of rifles seized from the FMLN.

The Armed Forces rescinded, on 13 November, the permits for weapons and announced it will start a registry of these weapons, which are used by private security agencies and citizens. The measure will be carried out in compliance with the peace accords signed by the government and the FMLN.

The responsibility of collecting these special weapons belongs to the future National Civilian Police and the National Police rather than the Armed Forces, Montalvo said. He added the Armed Forces is using this as a pretext to leave its concentration areas and deploy its forces throughout the country.

The Army has concentrated its forces in 32 barracks and the FMLN has concentrated its fighters in 15 camps, where they await the disarmament and demobilization scheduled for 15 December.

Montalvo insisted that, following the process of registering and collecting weapons, which has started and should conclude on 8 December, the Armed Forces should deliver a list of weapons confiscated from the FMLN during the war, because many of these—for example, the Soviet-made AK-47s and rocket launchers—are being used by private security agencies.

The Legislative Assembly has yet to approve the public security agencies' law, another project included in the peace accords to regulate the activities of companies, groups, or persons who render a security or protection service to private enterprises and state agencies.

Foreign Envoys Express Satisfaction With Accords

PA1311223492 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The Embassies of Colombia, Venezuela, Spain, Mexico, and the United States are pleased with the latest agreement reached between the government of Alfredo Cristiani and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. They encouraged the two parties to meet their commitments within the timetable. According to a joint communique issued by the five embassies in San Salvador, the aforementioned governments congratulated the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN on their efforts and goodwill in reaching the agreement with UN mediation.

They also recognized the effective intervention of the UN secretary general and his under secretaries and representatives. The joint communique, issued by the so called friendly nations of the UN secretary general and the United States, also encourages the two parties to strive for an atmosphere of confidence free of tensions, so that 15 December may become the definitive reconciliation day for all Salvadorans.

According to this most important statement released by the five governments, the agreement reached on the weekend of 8 November will allow the last obstacles to be surpassed during this final phase of the peace agreement implementation process. Although the details of the agreement have not been disclosed, several sources have confirmed that everything pertaining to the military issues will go into effect before the end of the year.

Guatemala

Serrano Denies Torture, Denounces Conference

PA1411224292 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] President Jorge Elias Serrano criticized the participation of Ronald Ochaeta, Amilcar, and Factor Mended in two activities scheduled to take place in Washington. Serrano said that the aforementioned persons are preparing to participate in a seminar entitled: "The Heart of Darkness" which is to take place at The Catholic University of America, as well as an international conference related to "Torture in Guatemala".

The president said he has categorically stated on previous occasions that torture has been eradicated from Guatemalan territory. He added that if Ochaeta and Mended have any evidence of torture, that is the purpose of the courts. According to Serrano, "dirty laundry should be washed at home".

He added that it is inconceivable that Guatemalan citizens would allow themselves to participate in sensationalist conferences that are only aimed at destroying Guatemala's image. The president added that the government repudiates torture and the Armed Forces do not use torture. He said there is going to be a stop to those charges of torture.

Serrano also criticized Ochaeta because on a previous occasion, he had said there were no instances of torture in Guatemala, and that he was now preparing to say the contrary in Washington. According to Serrano, that is unpatriotic, and it is not fair that while in Guatemala they resort to saying one thing and overseas they just go crazy saying all kinds of nonsense.

Special Police Force Guards Supreme Court

PA1411224192 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] About 30 members of the Special Reaction Command [Comando de Reacciones Especiales] of the National Police 5th Corps were dispatched in the early hours of 12 November to the Supreme Court building where lately, Judicial Branch employees have remained to demand full payment of their 15th bonus.

Ana Maria Vargas de Ortiz, alternate Supreme Court magistrate, said in a curt reply to the media that this special security force was called in to protect the persons who on 12 November, attended the annulment process in a public hearing against seven policemen charged with the murder of two university students in Quetzaltenango.

Even though 12 November was a holiday for court workers due to the celebration of Judicial Branch Day, the public was joined by personnel on duty who expressed annoyance at the presence of "riot" police,

who were summoned for the first time during the first six months of administration by [Supreme Court President] Juan Jose Rodil Peralta.

David Alirio Cifuentes, conflict secretary of the Judicial Branch Union, said that both the workers and the union members see the presence of the model police platoon as a sign of the authorities' weakness and lack of intelligence, who due to their lack of will and true desire for dialogue, try to hush the workers' demands through force.

He said that at a workers assembly it was agreed to not join the public today if the Judicial Branch authorities do not resolve their demands.

Cifuentes added that the police presence requested by the Rodil Peralta administration does not worry them because they truly believe that their movement is fair and legal.

He recalled that as a union they have exhausted all available legal resources for dialogue with the Judicial Branch authorities as well as with the Supreme Court magistrates. Up to now, there is no idea as to why the authorities refuse to resolve this matter through dialogue.

Cifuentes said that it is worrying and destabilizing to listen to Magistrate Ana Maria Vargas de Ortiz say that the workers were the ones responsible when it is the magistrates who refuse any dialogue.

Supreme Court President Juan Jose Rodil Peralta has refused to hold any dialogue with the union or to give any statements to the press.

Honduras

Commentary: Clinton Win 'No Guarantee for Anyone'

PA1411125592 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 7

[Article by Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle: "Honduras and the U.S. Political Change"]

[Excerpts] Bill Clinton's victory is no guarantee for anyone. We had nothing to do with his election, and no one ever knows what direction a new U.S. Government will take. The cordial invitation from the embassy to local politicians to vote at the Maya Hotel on 2 November was a consolation game and not the opportunity we should have to give an advance vote, since the United States imposes financial systems on us. According to a U.S. fundamental principle, there cannot be taxation without representation ("taxation without representation") [preceding words published in English]. Nevertheless, we must admit that the democratic victory is important and encouraging.

Conservative groups always try to preserve inertia in society. In general, the Bush administration and conservative governments try to maintain the status quo, which they prefer to any uncertainty. From their standpoint, any substantial change is dangerous, and "a known evil is better than an unknown good." That would not be so terrible from the perspective of a successful and rich society. Thatcher, Reagan, and Bush were indeed trying to preserve the status quo in the most wealthy and advanced societies in the world. Sadly, however, at the same time they prevented the development of our countries, because by contrast, our condition is terrible, and it will not improve on its own or without a profound transformation. [passage omitted]

I foresee that the democratic predominance in the White House and the Capitol will also result in a more coherent U.S. foreign policy. Although it will continue to be the policy of a superpower, the strategies could be substantially different. A democratic administration will at least notice contradictions in its discourse about legality when subjecting us to its games of power, and will feel remorse when violating our laws against its own legal tradition. Republicans—who are hardliners—were indifferent to our protests for abuses and reports on fraud and manipulation. The arrival of the Democratic Party to the government could lend us—including the opposition against regimes protected by the Bush administration, such as the Callejas government—a favorable ear for our complaints at the U.S. Embassies and in Washington.

Clinton's platform finally secures greater reduction in military aid and the new democratic administration will promote even more demilitarization. The Gringos will help us keep our economies afloat, if in general—we reduce unproductive expenses.

There are also disadvantages and immediate risks for our countries with the rise of the democrats. Clinton will reinforce the protectionistic pressures, which will be negative for our commercial balance. But we must recall that Bush maintained many restrictions on our exports. On the other hand, the Caribbean Initiative and the Free Trade Agreement are long-range bipartisan projects that no one will stop. In the long run, the balance seems favorable. Clinton has what no other U.S. President has had since Kennedy. A compassionate and noble vision of the United States, the continent, and the future. He may realize that what ended with the collapse of the USSR was not history or the limits of U.S. power, but a geostrategic pretext to not do what needs to be done. He may realize that the greatest challenge to make the United States greater consists in creating a new relation with the world, and first of all, with Latin America, a relation that will permit the globalization and universalization of the postindustrial era. We will see if this paralyzed relation starts flowing again. In any event, our political, social, and economic liberation does not depend on Clinton or the United States, but on our awakening to our real critical condition and taking actions independently and with determination. Let's all vote!

Congress President Visits Cuba, Meets Castro

PA1411041592 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p5

[Text] National Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas met with President Fidel Castro during his visit to Cuba. Irias Navas stayed in Cuba for a week and visited places of interest to tourists.

The Permanent Commission was unable to meet in Irias' absence, and it did not convene until the morning of 12 November when he returned.

Irias said his trip to Cuba was personal. He added that he "received an invitation from Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Escalona asked me to pay an unofficial visit to Cuba. I had the pleasure to meet with President Fidel Castro and the opportunity to do a little touring upon invitation from the Cuban Government."

He said he primarily discussed political issues with Castro. Irias stated: "Castro is worried about the U.S. decision on the Torricelli law, the effect the Clinton administration could have on Latin America, and the stand of certain Latin American countries concerning these types of decisions made by the United States."

According to Irias Navas, Castro feels such U.S. decisions "affect the sovereignty of some nations, and perhaps he is not altogether incorrect."

Nicaragua

Bomb Causes 'Slight Damage' During Demonstration

PA1411175692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1705 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Managua, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The explosion of a homemade explosive device thrown by a worker, who participated in a demonstration against unemployment in Nicaragua, caused slight damage in the parking lot of the presidency in Managua.

A police officer and Sandinist labor leader Roberto Gonzalez on 14 November confirmed that the device caused "slight damage."

The demonstration ended peacefully after a meeting between the highest authorities of Violeta Chamorro's administration and the pro-Sandinist National Workers Front (FNT) ended without reaching any specific agreements. The FNT are negotiating for improved labor conditions.

The negotiation of a list of 17 petitions will be conducted bilaterally between companies and their employees, according to labor leader Ronaldo Membreno.

Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and the FNT leadership established 25 November as the date of their next meeting; they will discuss all of the workers' petitions.

Lacayo Announces New Disarmament Plan

PA1011195492 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Excerpts] During a tour through Matagalpa, which included a meeting with farmers and a visit to experimental agricultural centers, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo announced a new plan to disarm civilians, called Christmas Without Arms.

The working tour by the government delegation, headed by the minister, started with a visit to a $1 million cooperative coffee processing plant in Matagalpa. Sixty percent of the cost of its construction was contributed by the cooperative's 150 members. The rest was financed by the Swedish Government. [passage omitted]

Lacayo visited haciendas and an experimental center for new pastures, managed by the regional office of the Agriculture Ministry. In Muy Muy, Lacayo visited the municipal market and met with farmers from Matiguas, Rio Blanco, Esquipulas, and Muy Muy, where the government delegation listened to reports on the people's needs. Lacayo announced the Christmas Without Arms plan, which will be implemented by the Army, the police, and special disarmament brigades. The plan intends to ensure the coffee crop and prevent cattle rustling in the area.

[Begin Lacayo recording] Those civilians with firearms can exchange them for money, tools, fertilizer, or seeds. This message is addressed to those who think they can attain what can only be attained through work. These people should try to avoid the operations we plan to launch against gangs of criminals and rustlers. [end recording]

In this meeting, 17 tractors, donated by the Japanese Government, were donated to local development centers. [passage omitted]

FSLN Issues Statement Rejecting Privatization

PA1011235892 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Statement issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front National Directorate on 9 November; place not given; read by Daniel Ortega—recorded]

[Text] We Sandinists favor fair compensation for all deserving persons who have not yet received it. Nevertheless, we flatly oppose any attempt to compensate or return properties to any member of the Somoza family or their accomplices based on Decrees 3 and 38.

There are plans to privatize state-owned banks and insurance companies and place them again, in the hands of privileged groups, all of which violates the Constitution. The National Directorate demands an immediate answer from the government to the 25 July 1992 proposal and the initiation of a serious, joint effort to debate Nicaragua's economic and social course.

In the past few months the U.S. far rightists, resorting to financial blackmail, have imposed terms on and have succeeded in gaining concessions from the government, which, yielding to the pressure of the fund disbursement, harmed the country's self-determination. Now that the U.S. elections are over, the United States must devote energy to solving conflicts that have persisted since the 19th century. Respectful relations that can lead to stability in Nicaragua and peace in Central America should be initiated.

We strongly oppose the threats to evict residents from settlements by the mayor of Managua and other government officials. The violation of the rights of legitimate beneficiaries of Laws 85, 86, and 88 is inadmissible. The National Directorate rejects the handing over of public service entities such as the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services, the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, and the Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute to privileged economic minorities through compensatory mechanisms or any other process.

The National Directorate hereby publicly declares its support for the workers' struggle to obtain 25-percent ownership in industrial, commercial, and service enterprises, as well as those in the transportation and tourism industries, which will be privatized. The workers should either keep that percentage of ownership in the enterprises or exercise their right for the same percentage of ownership in other enterprises as best suits their interests. The FSLN supports the Sandinist People's Army as the country's only armed institution. We oppose any attempt to disband it. The National Directorate calls on the people to close ranks around the workers' struggle for property ownership, the peasants' struggle for land title deeds, the struggle of the unemployed for a decent job, the struggle of those benefited with homes and land for their genuine rights, the struggle of producers for bank loans, the struggle to eliminate the 15 percent General Value Tax, and the demands of students, teachers, and health workers.

Cesar 'Will Not Consider' Supreme Court Decision

PA1111233892 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar says he will not consider any Nicaraguan Supreme Court of Justice decision intended to resolve the crisis between the legislative and executive branches. Cesar defended his position by saying that the top Nicaraguan justice court does not have the authority to settle internal Assembly issues, therefore he will not consider its decision.

The Nicaraguan Constitution does not give the Supreme Court any rights regarding the legislative branch because, Cesar said, the branches of state are independent from each other and must coordinate in a harmonious manner. Alfredo Cesar spoke about the Supreme Court decision during a news conference.

[Begin recording] [Cesar] My position is the same; it is firmer than ever. The fact is that the Supreme Court has neither the jurisdiction nor the authority to settle this National Assembly issue. The best thing the Supreme Court could do for the country would be to announce that it has neither the jurisdiction nor the authority to settle the problem. The factions and political forces in the legislature could then agree on the return of the deputies who have abandoned their parliamentary duties.

It seems to me that the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino] has (?established a very clear contrast); that all the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FLSN] representatives are in favor of intervening in the legislative branch, while other forces maintain the opposite—that the conflict should be resolved by the legislature with no interference from other branches of state.

[Unidentified reporter] [Name indistinct] for Radio Catolica. [words indistinct].

[Cesar] My position has not changed. I believe the Supreme Court lacks authority, therefore no Supreme Court decision will be taken into consideration.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cesar] Of course not.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cesar] I believe the executive branch should reconsider the situation it is creating by not sending the budget to the Assembly. I believe the Parlatino delegation's visit will help the president reconsider and send us the budget as soon as possible. If the budget is not sent to the National Assembly there will be no 1993 budget. [end recording]

Former EPS Members Protest at Finance Ministry

PA1111124692 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Nov 92 p 5

[Report by Nohelia Gonzalez]

[Text] Only 400 of the 2,000 retired members of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, included in the Discharge Plan Number One [Plan de Licenciamiento Numero Uno] (PL-1) have been able to redeem the government discharge bond [bono de licenciamiento], Adolfo Delgado, coordinator of the national commission of PL-3 reported on 9 November.

In response to this, discharged EPS members gathered at the Luis Alfonso Velasquez Park, located in front of the Finance Ministry, Mifin, to demand "no more tricks" and "the urgent cashing of the bonds."

"The government made us come on 4 November to tell us that the banks were short of money. We were asked to return on 9 November when Finance Minister Emilio Pereira would give us a positive reply," former Lieutenant Abraham Marenco Espinoza said.

"We do not want to clash with the police. We have been ignored, and all we want now is to cash our bonds in order to be able to face the future, but the government is playing with our dignity." he added.

After attending a meeting at the Mifin, Delgado said the government promised to give them a reply on 13 November, at a second meeting.

According to Delgado, the Mifin will work with the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) to redeem the bonds for 1,600 discharged EPS members, which the state bank has not been able to cash.

He added that Finance Minister Assistant Sonia Hernandez was asked to arrange a meeting with Minister Pereira, and that she promised to give them an answer at the next meeting.

Delgado said the discharged EPS members are upset because they fear they will not be able to cash their bonds by December." He did not rule out the possibility of intensifying protests in front of government buildings should they receive a negative reply.

"People in various regions are ready to carry out tougher actions, including surrounding the Finance Ministry," Delgado stressed. He held the government responsible for future actions to pressure the government that may be carried out by the discharged EPS members.

Former Deputy Minister Extradition Petition Begins

PA1311192992 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Nov 92 pp 1, 16

[Report by Eloisa Ibarra A.]

[Text] The Penal Prosecuting Office is preparing to formally request the extradition of former Deputy Presidency Minister Antonio Ibarra Rojas before Judge Ana Clemencia Correa. This will be the third extradition request Nicaragua has made to U.S. authorities.

Penal Prosecutor Jose Antonio Fletes explained that Judge Correa will have to process the extradition request by first acknowledging its receipt and then forwarding it to the Supreme Court of Justice. In turn, the Supreme Court will send it to the Foreign Ministry in order for the request to be handled through diplomatic channels.

Fletes pointed out that prior to the Ibarra request, there have only been two extradition requests to the United States. One petition was made by General Anastasio Somoza against Julio Pataky, brother of Laslo Pataky. The request involved a million-dollar embezzlement from the Banco Centroamericano, which was owned by the general.

Pataky was brought to Nicaragua, but it is believed that it was not a result of the extradition request, but because of an agreement between Somoza and the United States. In the end, Pataky was found guilty by a court of law.

The other request was made by the Sandinist regime against Anastasio Somoza (Chiguin), for reasons still unknown, since they have never been disclosed. Nothing ever came of this request.

Fletes explained that the extradition of Ibarra and Celia Montealegre will be made based on a mutual extradition treaty between Nicaragua and the United States signed on 10 March 1905. The treaty was ratified by Nicaragua on 26 April 1907.

The request is also based on the convention on extradition matters signed in Montevideo during the Seventh American International Conference in 1933 and ratified by Nicaragua in 1952.

The penal prosecutor explained that the extradition request will be made to the U.S. authorities, because it is believed that he [Ibarra] is currently in the United States. If this is not the case, then the extradition request will be made to Latin American countries.

Extradition requests made to the United States are more difficult to process than those made to Latin American countries, because they must first be submitted to a Federal Court and to the State Department, Mr. Fletes explained.

After pointing out that in Latin American countries, extradition requests simply have to go through judicial channels, which in turn, decide whether they accept the request or not, Fletes added that most of the time, our countries have a difficult time obtaining an extradition from the United States.

Fletes stipulated that "we hope the extradition request will be accepted in the United States, since it meets all the requirements as established by the treaties and agreements related to extradition from the United States."

He added that the Federal Court could order a temporary 60 day arrest against Ibarra while it determines whether the extradition request will be accepted or not.

On the other hand, Judge Ana Clemencia Correa of the Managua Eight District Criminal Court is preparing to appoint another court defense attorney for Ibarra so the process may continue, because Defense Attorney Rodolfo Encarnacion Lacayo has not been notified of the extradition writ, since he has not been located.

Penal Prosecutor Fletes explained that the extradition proceedings were delayed because of the dismissal of Judge Rosa Argentina Solis, who had issued a formal prison arrest order against Ibarra and other persons.

Judge Solis was dismissed under unclear circumstances since the Supreme Court members argued that the dismissal came about as result of administrative negligence, which she rejects.

Judge Solis stressed that her dismissal was related to the sentence she issued in the case, and that before rendering sentence, she received a telephone call from Magistrate Rafael Chamorro, with whom she refused to comply.

Panama

Preliminary Counts Indicate 'No' Vote on Referendum

Endara Congratulates Voters on Democracy

PA1611022192 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0105 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Statement by President Guillermo Endara at the Palace of the Herons, in Panama City; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens, Panamanians who went to the polling stations on 15 November proved an exemplary civic spirit which should make us all feel proud. The referendum was carried out in order and with full freedom. It has been witnessed by hundreds of local and international observers, who were able to tour the entire country. They can certify the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity that prevailed during the referendum and the timely manner in which information was given to the public following the closure of the polling tables.

A firm step has been taken today to strengthen our democracy. In fact, history was written in our country today. The days when suspicion followed an election and allowed irregular actions to adulterate the people's will, as stated in the ballot boxes, are a thing of the past. This marks the beginning of a new system which should restore voters' trust in the election process and honesty and clearness in tallying votes. This is a right all Panamanian people have and should never lose.

An honest and free referendum is one of the sacred institutions in a democratic regime. We must not forget this because the will of the people represents the essence of the country we want to build. The results of the democratic exercise now are clear. Although there was a low voter turnout and although all the ballots have yet to be tallied, partial and unofficial figures seem to indicate a clear victory in favor of no. Proposed reforms to the current Constitution have not been approved by the Panamanian voters.

I want to assure the Panamanian people and the world that I will respect the people's will. The proposed reforms have been rejected. As a democratic ruler, I accept the people's will. Regardless of the results, I have no doubt Panamanian democracy is the undeniable winner today. The Panamanian people have not accepted the proposed reforms. That is quite clear. That means the current Constitution remains in effect in the terms approved in the 1983 referendum.

However, this does not preclude future reforms. Everything seems to indicate the Panamanian people do want reforms to the political Constitution. If that is the goal sought by leading groups in the country, new changes can always be proposed. In fact, my government would be willing to support another attempt in the future, but it must be done within a constitutional framework and following the procedures established by our Constitution.

To conclude, I want to congratulate the voters, who went to the polling places in an orderly manner today, and the Electoral Tribunal officials for the work they carried out. I also want to assure the Panamanian people my government will continue its efforts to improve the living conditions of all the citizens in the country. We will come through against all odds. I issue an appeal to all my fellow citizens so we may continue to work hard and produce more to build a sovereign, united, progressive, and vigorous homeland like the one forefathers visualized and like the one we wish for our descendants.

Thank you, and may God always save our homeland.

Vice President: 'Frustration' Confirmed

PA1611014192 Panama City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0045 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Statement by First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon at the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good evening, everyone. I decided to come here tonight to congratulate the Electoral Tribunal magistrates and all the people and organizations that have cooperated with the Tribunal in implementing this honest and peaceful referendum which has inspired trust among the Panamanian people. They have really carried out a job that allows us to say our democracy has won, and I personally want to congratulate on behalf of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

The referendum's results, whose tendency is clearly seen, confirm the deep frustration the country feels about the government. The majority that did not vote expressed its dissatisfaction through its abstention. I believe those who voted no did it, above all, as a form of protest against the government rather than to reject the constitutional reforms. Most of us who voted yes voted this way because we considered the constitutional reforms good. We are the opposition. Therefore, those who abstained from voting, those who voted no, and most of those who voted yes share this enormous frustration with the government.

No one can consider himself a winner with these results, but it represents a clamor from our people which we must hear. It is a clamor for in-depth changes and rectifications concerning the way in which the country is being ruled. The clamor says: Put an end to the stingy use of state resources so investments may effectively be made in roads, schools, hospitals and so more jobs may be created for so many unemployed people. This clamor says: Put an end to the lack of protection for the people and make justice in our country effective and quick. The clamor says: Put an end to nepotism and influence peddling; investigate and, if necessary, punish charges about arbitrariness and corruption, even among officials. It is a clamor for change in a democracy.

PDC members believe the clamor and struggle to achieve those changes in a democracy can very well unite the Panamanian family—each one in his political position, assuming his responsibilities and helping achieve the Panama we want, with social justice and public decency. PDC members worked hard for the constitutional reforms we promised during the 1989 campaign, and I want to use this opportunity to congratulate thousands of activists and jury members for their work, because they have set an example of dedication for democracy. They have really taught us all there are many people ready to participate in the construction of a new democracy in Panama.

I also want to thank our sympathizers and friends, and I want to emphasize the irreplaceable role played by independent people. I also want to state our confidence that developments will aptly establish the value of the work we tried to carry out through the constitutional reforms. I am convinced Panama will carry on, and I am convinced our people can always count on the PDC members' work and dedication. I want to thank you, members of the media, for all you did to broadcast the messages from both sides during the campaign for the reforms and for broadcasting last minute reports throughout the day.

Thank you.

Opposition Leader Hails 'No' Victory

PA1611015592 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0058 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Statement by Ernesto Perez Balladares, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), at the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good evening, journalists and citizens: Tonight, I want to report that preliminary figures show that the no vote has won a crushing victory over the yes vote that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]—who promoted the referendum at the Legislative Assembly—and the national government had advocated.

We must say that our party interprets the high absenteeism in this referendum as an expression of something we had already reported: The proposed constitutional reforms would not resolve any grave national problem or any of the big problems of the country's poor sectors and, therefore, there would be much national indifference. Many of the votes that were not cast were protest votes against the government and its PDC allies.

We want to say also that without having utilized the media in the overpowering way that both the PDC and the national government used it in recent weeks to call for a yes vote, the PRD achieved a significant victory by having reached our country's most remote places, by having been able to safeguard, with scarce resources, our nation's identity and dignity, and by maintaining our country's possibility to defend itself so that we Panamanians do not need the tutelage of foreign forces in the future.

We want to again congratulate the Panamanian people and our sympathizers and party members for this overwhelming victory. If we view this victory the way it should be viewed, as a rejection of the national government and its policies, as rejection of unemployment, lack of education, lack of health, and lack of housing, I think that we will be able to create the necessary awareness so that we may repeat today's victory in the 1994 general elections.

Thank you.

Electoral Tribunal President Comments

PA1611051092 Panama City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0327 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Statement by Panamanian Electoral Tribunal President Eduardo Valdes Escoffery at Press Room of the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good evening, everybody. It is now 2225 in the evening. Seven hours and 30 minutes, approximately, have elapsed since the voting period concluded. As you have observed during this brief but intense period, we have counted unofficially approximately 92 percent of the polling tables. From the beginning, there was a clear tendency in favor of the no vote. I think that all of us can feel proud. You can feel proud as journalists, and we as magistrates and workers of the Electoral Tribunal who have been working throughout the provinces to make this possible. In the provinces, there was work at all the polling stations, in remote places. Much emphasis was placed to make sure that remote places, which traditionally have been the victims of electoral manipulations, were protected. This was done through an organizational effort, with planning, providing security to bury our bad experiences once and for all.

As a result of this, the first polling table to report results was that of Paya, in Darien. You probably have never heard of it. Only 61 people can vote there. That was the first polling table to report results. That polling table has functioned only a very few times before. The second polling table to report results was that of Otoque. From there on, there was massive reporting.

If we are to speak of the time when the first report from a polling table came in, we would be talking about less than 7 hours and 30 minutes.

We had predicted that within 24 hours, after 1700, we would have a minimum of 75 percent of the results. Many persons criticized us for saying that. We told them that we wanted to be conservative so that we could have something positive to share with the people if our efforts aimed at surpassing these goals were successful. We all know Panama's history. What we have seen has no precedent. No partial or total election results ever have

been reported by the Electoral Tribunal as quickly. Obviously, we feel it is unnecessary to keep you here long. You have been working intensely, with dedication. We want to thank you formally for your dedication and for your spirit of cooperation to fulfill your job in healthy competition, to keep the people informed throughout the country. This has no precedent, either.

All of us have contributed to eliminate the uncertainty and anguish that traditionally characterized our election processes of the past. We have entered a new phase, thanks to your positive cooperation and to the unselfish and patriotic effort carried out by 20,000 Panamanian citizens who worked for the Electoral Tribunal. We trusted in them and in the mechanisms that were set in motion within the framework of our organization. We knew that we could trust in them. This is why on the 13 November radio and television network we thanked them in advance for the effort and dedication they were to demonstrate.

We know there have been some deficiencies. All humans make errors, but errors will stimulate us to overcome small imperfections of this process. As you know, this was our first national effort. We have shared this effort together: You from one angle, and we from another. We have worked shoulder-to-shoulder to report clearly and unquestionably on an election process that I believe, based on objective assessments by friends who have been with us from other Latin American organizations from South and Central America, has been successful. Many of them have taken notice of what has been done and have congratulated us, saying that they wish they had the organizational capabilities we demonstrated on this occasion.

We are sure that you will help us place deficiencies in an appropriate perspective so that we all may feel proud of the work that has been accomplished by all of us. In a democracy, everyone is responsible. Many organizations worked to make all this possible. All the state organizations participated. One such organization is the Public Force. Electoral Tribunal Vice President Denis Allen will refer specifically to the Public Force in his statement. Another organization is the National Institute of Telecommunications, which unrestrictedly supported us throughout. We have no complaint about this institute. Even when it was on strike, its personnel kept in touch with us to assure us that they were not going to let their internal problems affect our fatherland.

Police Chief: Problems 'Insignificant'

PA1511230292 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2146 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Interview with Panamanian National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez by unidentified reporter; place not given; live]

[Text] [Reporter] What kind of security problems were confronted today?

[Fernandez] The problems we had were insignificant. The citizens cooperated greatly with the police effort.

[Reporter] Could you mention any of the insignificant incidents?

[Fernandez] Well, a few people were drunk. Some propaganda was displayed in some places and the police advised the people displaying it that it was not allowed. Other than that, there was nothing else.

[Reporter] Was anybody arrested?

[Fernandez] No. I have not been informed of any arrests. It is possible that somewhere in the country somebody may have been arrested for some reason, but I have no information on that.

[Reporter] How long will the police be at the disposal of the Election Tribunal?

[Fernandez] Until the president decides otherwise.

[Reporter] Any message?

[Fernandez] I want to thank the citizens for cooperating with the election authorities and therefore with the public forces. I ask them to participate in future elections with the optimism they showed today.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. National Police Director.

Police Arrest Anti-Reform Front Members

PA1611023992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1757 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Panama City, 15 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Four leaders of the National Front Against Constitutional Reforms (FRENO), which rejects the constitutional reforms subject to a referendum on 15 November in Panama, were arrested this morning by the police, it was reported by their lawyers.

Jorge Flores, Octavio Moran, Carlos Rodriguez, and Armando Torres were arrested and led to the police station in San Felipe, located in the downtown area of the capital, charged with carrying political propaganda, the sources said.

Attorney Enrique Herrera reported another FRENO member, lawyer and university Professor Miguel Antonio Bernal, was "mistreated" by Policemen because he reportedly carried in his car a flag in favor of a "no" vote.

The lawyers said the Electoral Tribunal forbid propaganda activities using the media or loudspeakers and public events during the referendum, but it did not ban the carrying of banners or insignia in favor of this option.

In the referendum, Panamanians will decide if 58 reforms to the Constitution—which were proposed by President Guillermo Endara and which include the abolishment of a national army—are justified.

Jose Alberto Alvarez, president of the National Bar Association in Panama, has carried out the necessary procedures to request the release of the prisoners, who have been turned over to the office of the Electoral Tribunal's prosecutor.

Newspaper Article Opposes Amendments

PA1411193592 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Nov 92 pA4

[Article by Julio Yau: "The United States and 'Our' Constitutional Amendments"]

[Text] On 2 December 1903, there was no National Assembly in Panama, and the Canal Treaty was ratified by decree by the Provisional Governing Junta. On 2 January 1904, the National Constituent Assembly was summoned in order to draft a new constitution.

U.S. War Secretary Elihu Root, worried that the constitution would not recognize the rights acquired by the United States, ordered his ambassador, William I. Buchanan, to **demand** that the Provisional Governing Junta include those guarantees in the constitution. As Norman J. Padelford told it: "Elihu Root gave a memorandum to Ambassador Buchanan, upon his departure for his diplomatic mission to Panama, recommending that the proposed constitution should expressly impose on the government, which was elected under it, the strict observance of the Treaty with the United States." (Footnote 1) (Yao, Julio, "The Panama Canal, The Calvary of a People" ["El canal de Panama, el calvario de un pueblo"] Madrid, Editorial Mediterraneo, 1974, p 154)

Deputy Pablo Arosemena accepted the U.S. demand and submitted a motion with the following paragraph for Article 3. "The territory of the Republic remains subject to the jurisdictional limitations that have been stipulated or that are stipulated in the public treaties signed with the United States...." Thus, the Canal Zone and its exclusion from national jurisdiction acquired constitutional status.

The United States also demanded that the Constitution empower it to intervene in maintaining public order and guaranteeing and maintaining the independence of Panama, contained in the aforementioned agreement (Articles 1 and 7). That demand, drafted by Ambassador Buchanan, appeared in Article 136. "The Government of the United States may intervene to restore public peace and constitutional order, if by virtue of the Public Treaty, that nation were to assume or had assumed the obligation of guaranteeing the independence and sovereignty of this Republic." (Footnote 2) ("Constitutions of the Republic of Panama" ["Constituciones de la Republica de Panama"] p 45)

As Domingo H. Turner stated: "The drafting of Article 136 is attributed to Ambassador Buchanan, who delivered it to Deputy Amador Guerrero by way of triumvir Tomas Arias." (Footnote 3) (Turner, Domingo, "Deadly Treaties! ["Tratado Fatal!"] Mexico, Editorial Proa, 1964, pp 55-56)

For the United States, its obligation of guaranteeing our independence covered maintaining public and constitutional order, so that Panama would not need an army for its national defense or its public security, but merely a police corps in charge of minor duties that were not incompatible with the role of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The incidents of 1903 (Treaty, independence, and protectorate) had to be reflected in the text of the Constitution, that is, the Treaty should be **constitutionalized**. Given this, the fact the Constitution stated "the Nation could have a permanent army for its defense," was nothing but a hollow aspiration. An army would be superfluous and was at odds with the responsibilities of the United States.

The consequences of the Treaty were not long in coming. In November 1904, the U.S. government forced the dismantling of the Panamanian Army, which surrendered its weapons under the threat of facing the U.S. Army. A warship had been stationed off Taboga, and a large number of Marines were deployed on the slopes of Anton Hill, ready to massacre the meager Panamanian Army. The patchwork of the National Police was made with remnants of this Army.

In 1916, under U.S. pressure, the National Police had to hand the weapons it had over to the gringo army. Without the means to handle the national defense, Panamanians had to repel the Costa Rican invasion of the Panamanian territory of Coto with an unconventional and improvised army that had no resources. The U.S. government forced Panamanians to withdraw from their territory, giving an ultimatum (by way of sending a warship) to the national government to leave Coto in Costa Rican hands, or better put, in the hands of the United Fruit banana company. That is how the United States guaranteed our independence!

If the legal logic of 1903 was written into the 1904 Constitution, the logic of the invasion will be crystallized (of course) in the constitutional amendments. The logic was not to let Panama ever try to have its national defense or keep its part of the defense of the Panama Canal, so that when our country fails to keep its commitments, the path would be paved either for a renegotiating or reneging on the Panama Canal Treaties. For that purpose, it became necessary to annihilate the only Panamanian Armed Forces and internally affect the international status of the Panamanian state.

National defense is a right and must stem from sovereignty. The state has the right to defend its nation and territory. Neither international law nor constitutional law can envision a state that does not have or renounces its national defense. In the doctrine of the recognition of governments or states, a government cannot and should not be recognized if it does not effectively exert control

over its territory and is not capable of guaranteeing the security and stability of its national borders.

In dismantling the Armed Forces and the previous government, under the impact of the U.S. invasion and occupation, the Panamanian state was deprived of every possibility of national defense, turning Panama into a unique protectorate, a domestic geopolitical space of the United States, administered by a regime that is under a custodianship.

The amendments that ban the Army and cancel every notion of national defense constitute the legal expression of the hybrid protectorate born of genocide and only serve to constitutionalize the U.S. invasion and smother the Panamanian nation. Said amendments were written by President George Bush with the blood of those who fell on 20 December; a blood that will forever hound the imitators of Pablo Arosemena and Amador Guerrero.

Deane Hinton said this: "Panama does not need an army. That is why it has friends."

Of course. With those kind of "friends," Panama no longer needs enemies.

APR Members Refuse To Join National Networks

PA1311212092 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p A2

[Communique from the Panamanian Broadcasting Association, APR; date and place not given]

[Text] The Panamanian Broadcasting Association [APR],

Whereas:

1. On 12 November members of our association received telephone calls and telegrams ordering us to join a national network granted to the Electoral Tribunal on 13 November, and another mandatory network for 15 November, for unspecified purposes.

2. During the 1989 Electoral Campaign and during the first days of the Endara Administration high-ranking government officials reasserted their rejection of radio networks, because they were considered anti-democratic, interventionist, and of doubtful legality.

3. Our broadcasting doctrine rejects all impositions to join national networks, except when the government has declared a state of national emergency according to the Constitution.

Consequently:

1. We ask the government and justice ministry to rescind the verbal and written orders issued by the Social Communication Media Directorate to join a national network on 13 and 15 November.

2. We notify our fellow members that we reject the mandatory networks, because they violate internationally accepted broadcasting principles and because they contradict the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance's promises.

3. We pledge to defend any fellow member, who refuses to join the network, from any action the national government may attempt against stations which—on their own right—decide not to participate in imposed networks.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
[Signed] Guillermo Antonio Adames, first vice president
Fernando Eleta Casanova, sergeant-at-arms
Delsa L. Fabrega, secretary
Ariz de Icaza Jr., secretary
David Simmons Hill, second vice president
Fernando Correa, director

Vice President on PRD 'Government Junta' Proposal

PA1311193592 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 80

[By Veronica L. Tamayo]

[Text] "It is an insult to the Panamanian people's intelligence for the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] to again bring up the idea of creating a provisional government junta," Second Vice President Guillermo Ford has said.

Ford said the PRD did not exist prior to being created by the members of the former Defense Force, which then created a provisional government junta that lasted 21 years. He added that now the PRD wants to do the same thing again and this cannot happen.

"[PRD Secretary General] Ernesto Perez Balladares has no moral authority to ask for a new provisional government junta to replace the present government," Ford said.

Referring to the referendum that will be held in Panama on 15 November, Ford said this consultation with the people will be carried out calmly and peacefully. He said he is very pleased to see this exercise carried out as a completely democratic competition.

The people's will, as demonstrated in this referendum, will be definitely and completely respected, the second vice president of the Republic said.

Argentina

* UCR Intraparty Struggle Analyzed

93SM0036B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Oct 92 p 5

[Article by Gabriela Lefosse]

[Text] At a moment when Eduardo Duhalde has before him the provincial reform prepared by Antonio Cafiero and Leopoldo Moreau, the UCR [Radical Civic Union] leader has joined Raul Alfonsin in the latter's new political initiative.

Through the medium of the Modeso (Movement for Social Democracy), the former president of the nation seeks to concentrate all of the party's power, despite the fact that his lieutenant, Leopoldo Moreau, elicits more hatred than support, as for example in Juan Manuel Casella, another prodigal son, who does not conceal his displeasure at not having been consulted by the chief concerning the strategy to follow. Perhaps the fact that two internal adversaries such as Casella and Federico Storani have joined forces in the Radical Convergence movement is a clear indication of how they have been united by the mutual alarm with which they view Moreau, for whom anyone who is not in Modeso is an enemy.

It is clear that in the view of many, Radical Convergence seems more like a marriage in which both partners are unfaithful but maintain the pretense for convenience's sake. Convergence's strategy will be to exert internal pressure by supporting Alfonsin and—taking advantage of its numerical strength—by electing several deputies. There are those who believe Fredy [Storani] will be the one to break this alliance, but one thing is certain: neither partner seems very satisfied with what they are doing. For example, during the ceremonial inauguration of Modeso at the Speedway [Autopista Center] [preceding word in English] Storani joined the movement by telegram, whereas at the inauguration of Radical Convergence (in the Lanus microstadium) the former gubernatorial candidate insisted that he was in ideological agreement with Alfonsin but did not agree with Alfonsin's manner of dealing with the party.

In any case, Casella needs Convergence in order to replace Edison Otero in the National Senate, and probably needs the Cordoban to run with Fernando de la Rua on the presidential ticket. For his part, Alfonsin will assuredly win the chairmanship of the UCR National Committee and from there direct the new government in the event it is a UCR administration. De la Rua will hardly be in a position to challenge the chief in an internal party dispute, and will wait for an opportunity to negotiate concerning jobs ranging from municipal councilmember to cabinet minister. Meanwhile, the former president is confidently awaiting the results of a survey that Enrique Nosiglia may prepare to boost his image. His close associate is also busy cultivating relations with other progressive sectors and thereby broadening the political spectrum.

In this connection, Dr. Alfonsin expects to obtain a line of credit from the European social democratic parties after the first of next year. This—together with the public rehabilitation of his administration by leaders such as Felipe Gonzalez, Willy Brandt, and Francois Mitterand—are in a sense compensation for the fact that the UCR was not accepted for membership in the Socialist International. It was argued that social democracy is an internal—not a total—expression of the party, and there was much discussion of the former president's disappointment when the Popular Socialist Party, headed by Guillermo Estevez Boero, was accepted as a member.

Another powerful figure in the UCR, Eduardo Angeloz, continues to lose points both inside and outside the party. On the outside, the "Maders" case has become a time bomb, inasmuch as when the truth comes out it will hurt the governor.

Moreover, Cordoba's economic distress is reported to be seriously undermining Angeloz' third term in office. The governor weakened his position within the party when at the UCR's National Convention he did not challenge Raul Alfonsin more vigorously for the party's titular leadership.

Melchor Posse and Antonio Trocoli, who were at that time Angeloz' allies, asked him to launch his Federal Line [Linea Federal] throughout the country. but the economic support expected from the United States is being delayed, thereby halting construction. It should be emphasized that Angeloz heads a foundation in that country and his province maintains both official and financial representation there. Meanwhile, the mayor of San Isidro, who is also the policy director of the Radical Recovery [Recuperacion Radical] movement in Buenos Aires, is striving for power at his own pace. In only a few weeks' time he severed the alliance with Angeloz—thereby mortally weakening the latter in the province—and last night at the Platense Club launched his own candidacy for governor.

The third UCR heavyweight is Senator Fernando de la Rua, nicknamed the "priest." He is a phenomenon who is being exploited by many, inasmuch as it is assumed that with his passage to the Senate his star will go into decline. De la Rua, however, is not a politician who plays the game by making compromising statements or engaging in acts of corruption that would weaken his image. He is well aware that his campaign for the presidency must have the approval of the public in general and his party in particular. To this end he has begun to tour the interior of the country, using funds from the Capital Committee. In this way he has invigorated Salta and Tucuman—two provinces in which the UCR was almost dead—and has enlisted the support of party bosses who had been abandoned by Angeloz.

Some of de La Rua's supporters believe that by working through the Ricardo Balbin Foundation, or by establishing a similar foundation, companies of the first rank can be attracted to act as his sponsors [preceding word in English]. Negotiations to this effect are in a relatively advanced stage.

The candidate knows that in order to cross the General Paz [Argentine military hero of post-independence era; exact reference unknown] he must toughen his discourse and become somewhat more committed to the task, but he will also need money to get his message to the people.

* Political Dialogue Between UCR, PJ Expected

93SM0036A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Oct 92 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Signs of Rapprochement Between UCR [Radical Civic Union] and PJ [Justicialist Party]"]

[Text] A new effort at dialogue between the government and the UCR is apparently about to be initiated. Not only did UCR National Committee Chairman Mario Losada declare that political dialogue with administration officials "is possible," but Senator Eduardo Menem maintained that the PJ will build "all bridges necessary to continue the dialogue" with the opposition parties, because he believes "it is the only peaceful way to coexist politically."

During the meeting of the PCR National Committee yesterday in Parana, Entre Rios, the party's national chairman offered an explanation. "The fact that we have severed relations with the administration does not mean we cannot restore them," Losada said, but added that "in order for this to take place, the government will have to change some of its attitudes and comport itself in a manner that will make dialogue credible."

"We continue to have the same desire for dialogue," he said in conclusion, "but if the dialogue reflects one orientation and the government's hegemonic attitudes another, then there is a contradiction."

For his part, Eduardo Menem—the senator who currently occupies the office of chairman—explained that although the PJ did respond to the statement issued by the UCR, "at no time does it have any intention of breaking off the dialogue." He added that as far as his party is concerned, "you will always find it prepared to engage in dialogue, because it realizes that this is the only peaceful way to coexist politically. We shall therefore maintain our present posture, and we shall return to the task of building all bridges necessary to continue the dialogue."

Menem also deemed it "logical" that differences of opinion exist between the government and the opposition. "But despite these differences," he emphasized, "the dialogue should never be broken off."

As for the position taken by the principal opposition party, Menem said that "the threat to sever relations has no justification and no real basis in fact. If there are some measures they do not like, they should make their disagreements known by protesting, questioning, and offering alternative proposals. It seems to me," he emphasized, "that there is no cause to say that I will not participate in dialogue."

After expressing this apparent willingness to reinitiate the dialogue, the UCR National Committee again repudiated "the government's use of repressive practices as the sole response to social protest" and rejected the "manipulation and distortion of the electoral laws and schedules in accordance with the speculative ventures and interests of administration officials."

At its special meeting in Parana, which was attended by the district chairmen and chairmen of the legislative blocs, the national leadership of the principal opposition party issued a stern statement containing seven points.

In the statement, the UCR national leadership—headed by Senator Mario Losada—expressed its "solidarity" with party officials in the federal capital, who are sponsoring an investigation of the performance of Mayor Carlos Grosso, in an apparent response to the Justicialist Party's explicit rejection of the position taken by UCR officials in the capital.

This meeting was the second to be held outside the federal capital, inasmuch as last month the provincial party chairmen met in Corrientes. The views expressed in the statement were subsequently reaffirmed at a press conference by the party leaders Horacio Jaunarena, Mario Negri, Alfredo Orgaz, Enrique Mathov, and Losada himself.

After approximately three hours of discussion, the UCR leadership issued a statement in which it approves the convoking of "a joint effort—in conjunction with the various sectors of society—to restore observance of the law, the security of the court system, and the constitutional guarantees."

A decision was also made to support "to the fullest the people of Santiago del Estero in their movement to repudiate the fraud perpetrated in that province, on the first anniversary of the mockery of the people's will," and to protest "the political and institutional consequences of the government's violation of the law during the election of the senator for Jujuy."

Solidarity

Solidarity was also proclaimed with the Buenos Aires UCR leadership, which "in the exercise of the most elemental rights, demands an accounting from a mayor whose administration appears to be regarded as suspect by the majority of the local population and protected from scrutiny by the manner of its selection without regard to the wishes of the city's residents."

The fifth item in the statement issued by the committee rejects "the manipulation and distortion of the electoral laws and schedules in accordance with the speculative

ventures and interests of administration officials"—a tactic regarded by the committee as tending to "induce artificial results."

In conclusion, the UCR scheduled a plenary session of committee delegates for 13, 14, and 15 November in San Luis, to "make an overall assessment of the national political situation and decide on the actions to be taken by the party throughout the nation."

Brazil

Criminal Charges Not To Interfere With Impeachment

PY1411124692 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The charges presented to the Supreme Court against suspended President Fernando Collor will not interfere with the impeachment process.

Senator Elcio Alvares, chairman of the special committee in charge of analyzing the impeachment process, has explained that at the Senate, Collor is being prosecuted for a malfeasance crime, which is a political crime whose main consequence is removal from the post.

At the Supreme Court, however, the process is of a penal nature, and calls for legal justification.

[Begin Alvares recording] It is very important to note that they are two entirely different processes. The conclusion of the process underway at the Senate can be the loss of the presidential post plus an additional penalty, which consists of disqualifying the president from holding public posts for eight years. This does not happen with the other process, which relies on the penal code. The conclusion can be confinement or a prison sentence. [end recording]

Alvares said he is sure the impeachment process will be concluded before the Supreme Court approves the charges. The Senate is due to make the final judgment on the suspended president on 22 December. Alvares believes the penal process will be long and complex, and that it will demand the presentation of evidence proving the charges of passive corruption and illegal association—charges which were pressed by Attorney General Aristides Junqueira.

Lawyer Criticizes Charges Against Fernando Collor

PY1411071192 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Fernando Collor's lawyer, Jose Guilherme Vilela, has rebutted the criminal charges Attorney General Aristides Junqueira has pressed against removed President Fernando Collor.

The lawyer said the charges, which were filed with the Supreme Court, were wrongly pressed. Vilela said in his statement that the attorney general could not prove the president committed the crimes of passive corruption and illegal association attributed to him.

As an example, Vilela said the deposits Paulo Cesar Farias made in the accounts of secretary Ana Acioli to pay for the president's accounts may not be considered a crime of passive corruption, and the deposits were properly accounted for in the questionnaire that was answered by the removed president.

Vilela said the facts the attorney general mentioned in his charges did not add anything new, and they are based on the same questions Junqueira sent to the president.

The lawyer believes the attorney general did not take into account the explanations he received. He said it will not be difficult to prove that the accusation does not include any description of the crimes attributed to the president.

[Begin Vilela recording] The attorney general fulfilled his duty, and the defense now will fulfill its own duty. This is precisely how a trial operates, through the principle of contradiction. Someone says: So-and-So committed a crime. So-and-So says: I did not commit the crime. The court then makes a decision. [end recording]

Vilela said the evidence submitted so far to the Senate and the Supreme Court is more than enough to prove the innocence of removed President Fernando Collor.

Collor's Former Supporters Form Congressional Bloc

PY1311201292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Nov 92 p 12

[Text] Brasilia—A congressional bloc made up of more than 190 deputies from the liberal and labor parties was organized on 11 November. They are already campaigning for the three first seats of the new lower house Executive Board to be elected in February. The bloc consists primarily of suspended President Collor's former supporters, who are linked to the PFL [Liberal Front Party], the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the PRN [National Reconstruction Party], and the PSC [Social Christian Party]. This bloc will receive the support of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] next week. The candidates for the main seats already have been elected: Pernambuco PFL Deputy Inocencio Oliveira as chairman, Sao Paulo PTB Deputy Roberto Cardoso Alves as first deputy chairman, and Rio Grande do Sul PDS Deputy Adilson Motta as second deputy chairman.

The election of the members was made during a morning meeting at the PTB leadership hall. Attending the meeting were PFL member Luis Eduardo Magalhaes from Bahia, and Oliveira. Industry and Commerce Minister Jose Eduardo Vieira, who is also a PTB senator for Parana, attended the meeting to officially support the movement. PDS representatives said the party will join the bloc after the municipal runoff elections.

Government leader Deputy Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [People's Socialist Party-Pernambuco] went to the meeting hall to discuss the fiscal reform with the PTB and unexpectedly attended the meeting. Freire remained for a moment and praised the decision to form the bloc. Asked by Roraima PTB Deputy Raquel Candido about the PPS' position, Freire calmly said: "It obviously will join a socialist bloc along with the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party], the PT [Workers' Party], and the PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]."

Besides the liberal and labor bloc, another one is being organized under the leadership of the PST [Social Workers Party], former Parana Governor Alvaro Dias, and federal district Governor Joaquim Roriz. The PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and the PL [Liberal Party] will join this bloc. Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro was informed of the decision to create the blocs. He said the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] will have to form a "center-rightist" bloc, probably with the PSDB, the PDT [Democratic Workers' Party], and the PT.

Navy Detains Japanese Boat in Territorial Waters

PY1411182292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] The Navy has captured the Japanese boat (?Shinyo Maru) which was fishing within Brazil's 200-mile territorial zone. The boat had 75 metric tons of fish aboard.

It is illegal for any foreign boat to fish within the 200-mile zone, but this prohibition is not respected by dozens of vessels that invade Brazilian territorial waters.

The Japanese boat was 180 miles off the Brazilian coast. It was captured by the Navy corvette Forte de Coimbra, which is escorting the (?Shinyo Maru) to the naval base in Natal, on the Potengi River. The Navy only has this corvette to control illegal fishing in the northeastern region.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Is the number of vessels deployed to this district very small?

[Unidentified Navy officer] This is what the Navy has for this work. This is as much as we can do to control the sea. [end recording]

An IBAMA [Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources] team boarded the Japanese fishing boat and discovered it was carrying 75 metric tons of tuna and mackerel in the freezer, which can store up to 300 metric tons of fish.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Ibama official] We are going to confiscate all this fish.

[Reporter] What will be done with it?

[Ibama official] The fish will be auctioned. This fish is of good quality and the money obtained from the auction will be reinvested so as to facilitate controls by Ibama. [end recording]

Chile

Situation at Peruvian Border 'Absolutely Normal'

PY1411004392 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report by (Gonzalo Maryeri) from Arica]

[Text] Police have reported that, despite the latest events in Peru, absolute calm and normality reign at the border posts between Chile and Peru. Everything is calm at the Peruvian post of Santa Rosa and at the Chacalluta post on Chilean territory. Chilean Investigative Police have reported that traffic at the border is swift and normal and its volume has not diminished.

In Arica, however, the latest Peruvian events have alarmed the people, particularly the many Peruvian residents. The Peruvians who have crossed the border to engage in trade are extremely concerned about returning to their country as soon as possible for fear that restrictive measures will be adopted at the border.

The Peruvian Consulate in Arica did not open this afternoon, and it has become impossible to obtain any information from its employees. As a result, a large number of Peruvians has been impatiently waiting outside the consulate for an opportunity to finish paperwork that will allow them to elect the Constituent Assembly members. A large number of Peruvians living in Arica will elect Constituent Assembly candidates in the 22 November elections in only nine more days.

To reiterate what we just said, so far the situation on the Chilean-Peruvian border is absolutely normal.

Colombia

Government Issues Three New Emergency Decrees

PA1411184692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Report by Patricia Uribe]

[Text] The national government has recently issued three new decrees aimed at controlling terrorist activities by guerrilla groups and drug traffickers. The measures adopted by the Council of Ministers include mechanisms such as witness protection programs and special auditing operations to locate funds.

The government, as a follow-up to recently declared internal emergency measures, issued a package of measures aimed at controlling drug trafficking and terrorist activities. Three new decrees approved by the Council of

Ministers are specifically aimed at providing protection and immunity for witnesses, as well as establishing special auditing measures to detect public funds in the hands of the guerrillas.

[Begin recording] [Government Minister Humberto de la Calle] There is a need for caution in public spending regarding the final destination of public funds and the manner in which the national budget is implemented. The objective is to prevent terrorist or subversive groups from having any access to these funds. I am specifically referring to those subversive groups that specialize in political subversion. [end recording]

Witnesses and their relatives will be able to rely on adequate government protection. Persons involved in drug trafficking or subversion will not be subject to charges or indictments, and they will be granted immunity as long as they provide information that may help to clarify drug or terrorist-related crimes.

[Begin recording] [Prosecutor General Gustavo de Grieff] On certain occasions it will be necessary to change identities, and on other occasions, it will be necessary to transfer witnesses from one place to another. Sometimes it will be a temporary protection. [end recording]

In the next few days the government will issue new decrees as a result of the internal violence. The decrees are aimed at countering increasing terrorist violence in Colombia.

Auditing Unit Formed; Immunity Decree Passed

PA1411172492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1421 GMT 14 Nov 92

["Excerpt" of a news conference by Government and Interior Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana and Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff with unidentified reporters at the Narino Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [De la Calle Lombana] ... This is not an effort to exert fiscal control or to hinder the decisions of the territorial or departmental authorities. It is strictly intended to prevent the use of contracts to divert social development funds from their true purpose for the promotion of terrorist or criminal activities.

There will be a unified, special public order auditing unit at the Government Ministry. This auditing unit will arrange the presence of specialized auditors—in certain cases invested with military ranks—in the municipalities most affected by the conflict. In this regard intelligence reports indicate that funds have been diverted for criminal purposes.

We will not undermine the departments' and municipalities' decision-making capabilities. It is not a matter of doing that or establishing new rules for fiscal control. The government respects the decisions made by the departments and municipalities on budget issues. We are simply trying to avoid the use of front organizations and public contracting to supply guerrillas with funds from the public treasury.

The decree outlines the auditors' exact sphere of action in detail. It makes provisions for resources when the decision is made to freeze certain funds to allow the discussion of controversies that may emerge, and it establishes procedures to deal with these conflicts. That is the purpose of this decree. The special auditors at the Government Ministry will begin functioning within the next few days to fulfill the goals established in Decree 1835.

The prosecutor general will immediately discuss the protection of individuals participating in trials.

[De Greiff] The national government has issued an interesting decree that requires the participation of the Office of the Prosecutor General for its fulfillment. When an individual testifies in a trial, he—due to the circumstances under which the crime was perpetrated—may have been a participant, and may have to be investigated and accused. Many of these individuals who are co-perpetrators or participants in a crime naturally refuse to cooperate with the authorities for fear of incriminating themselves and being prosecuted. To encourage the cooperation of individuals facing this situation, this decree authorizes the prosecutor general to guarantee that they will not be investigated or accused given their circumstances. This is a form of immunity that will be granted to these individuals.

However, due to the delicate manner in which the decree must be used, it has been surrounded by a number of guarantees. First of all, only the prosecutor general and deputy prosecutor general will be able to grant this immunity or guarantee that an individual will not be investigated or accused. Immunity can only be granted when the proof the witness provides has a true effect on the situation of the person against whom he has testified. Furthermore, the prosecutor general and deputy prosecutor general must take into account some of the aspects stated in Article 1 on the value of testimony to incriminate the mastermind of a crime.

TV Updates 'Offensive Against Subversion'

PA1511015092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] The Armed Forces offensive against subversion has already left at least 60 guerrillas dead nationwide. Last minute reports indicate that two Popular Liberation Army guerrillas have been killed in battles being waged in Norte de Santander Department right now. The fighting continues against several guerrilla fronts.

[Begin recording] [Defense Minister Rafael Pardo] There has been a disruption of order in some areas, especially Santander and Norte de Santander Departments, where the guerrillas have staged terrorist and criminal actions,

burning some buses and public transportation vehicles and threatening individuals.

[Correspondent Luis Javier Diaz] This is the defense minister's latest report on the public order situation in the country. In Norte de Santander Department, the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline was blown up, causing 7,000 barrels of petroleum to be spilled into the now polluted Sardinata River. Fighting continues in the area. Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] technicians have been unable to get to the site of the attack.

Meanwhile, intermunicipal transportation in Cucuta is normal. The most violent military offensive in the last few days took place in southern Sucre Department, where Navy units repelled a guerrilla attack in the Cauca River. Colombian Air Force planes supported the units from the air, bombing an entire guerrilla column:

[General Luis Alberto Sierra, northern operations commander] When the Navy units were attacked, they reported this, and the Air Force and the high command authorized the air operations.

[Diaz] This the first video the country has seen of Operation Santa Barbara in which units of the (Tarquia) Battalion stationed in Sogamoso killed 12 guerrillas in Socha, Boyaca Department. The commander of the 1st Brigade reported a normal situation in that department on 14 November.

Meanwhile, calm has returned to Ginebra, in central Valle del Cauca Department, where 12 guerrillas were killed and the Agrarian Bank and part of the municipal building were destroyed on 13 November. In Fontibon, west of Santa Fe de Bogota, the Army found a cache of seven submachine guns with silencers and arrested seven individuals, apparently hired assassins. The guerrillas sustained casualties in the towns of Manaure, Arauquita, and Yopal in Cesar, Huila, and Casanare Departments. The military offensive continues.

[Defense Minister Pardo] The military forces have received the support of the citizens. I think they have received vital support from all sectors. They will continue to intensify their mission and do what the Colombians expect them to do. [end recording]

Army Uncovers Guerrilla Plan To Block Highways

PA1411214992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] A guerrilla plan to block four of Colombia's major highways was made public this morning by the authorities. Reports of the plan coincided with the announcement of the new decrees issued by the government.

The National Army Intelligence Department uncovered a plan by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] to carry out a forced national strike [paro nacional armado] by which they intended to block the country's major highways, and thereby paralyze the transportation system for the next five days.

Guerrilla checkpoints have been detected in Caqueza, near the Santa Fe de Bogota-Villavicencio highways, Dabaibe and Apartado in Antioquian region of Uraba; El Pescadero on the San Gil-Bucaramanga highway; San Alberto in El Cesar, as well as other zones in Arauca Department.

The objective of the guerrillas is to isolate Santa Fe de Bogota from the rest of the country. In addition, they have threatened to burn all motor vehicle which chose to ignore their forced national strike warnings.

Bomb Explodes at Acopi Installations in Capital

PA1311145092 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Jesus Baez, development manager of Acopi, Colombian Industrial Association, in Santa Fe de Bogota, by Dario Arizmendi, at the studio—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] At approximately 0700 [1100 GMT] a bomb, weighing approximately 3 kgs, exploded directly in front of the Acopi installations. We will ask Acopi Development Manager Jesus Baez about what really took place. Good morning, Mr. Baez?

[Baez] Good morning.

[Arizmendi] We are trying to obtain some more detailed information direct from Acopi to ascertain the magnitute of the damage caused by the bomb that exploded this morning after 0700. Acopi is located near the Highway 21 and 44th Street intersection. The Harlequin Theater is also located in the same spot. Mr. Baez?

[Baez] Yes, sir.

[Arizmendi] Good morning, again.

[Baez] Good morning.

[Arizmendi] What was the magnitude of the bomb, and what damage did the explosion cause?

[Baez] It is really quite simple. So far we believe most of the damage was done to the building's windows and the front door.

[Arizmendi] Did any of the employees panic?

[Baez] No there was no hysteria. The information we have so far indicates that the attack took place at approximately 0720 early this morning. Our employees had not yet arrived. The only person here at the time was a lady who looks after the reception area.

[Arizmendi] At what time was the bomb placed? Do you have any information on this?

[Baez] No, we do not. The lady who was here at the time said that approximately at 0720, two 13- or 14-year-old

youngsters came by and placed a package near the door. When she saw them she shouted at them and they dropped the package and ran away.

[Arizmendi] Did you say that the two youngsters were approximately 13 or 14 years old?

[Baez] Yes, that is correct. That is the information we received from the lady.

[Arizmendi] One last question. Is there any police road block in the area at this time?

[Baez] No, the area is not cordoned off. There are police officers here who are investigating. There were also Dijin [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigation] and CAI [Immediate Attention Center] personnel here. The CAI is located about a block and a half from here. They merely took down all the details and everything is back to normal again. We are now receiving the public as usual.

[Arizmendi] Was the Harlequin Theather damaged?

[Baez] Only broken glass.

[Arimendi] That was all?

[Baez] Yes, that was it.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Jesus Baez, thank you very much. As you have all heard, there is no reason for hysteria. We are thankful the bomb did not cause any major damages or casualties. However, it is at times like these when we need the cooperation of all citizens in order to detect the presence of persons carrying packages and behaving suspiciously. Just imagine, my fellow listeners, what we now have. According to what the witness said, two youngsters were carrying the bombs. This is very serious because it implies there is a terrorist plan aimed at the capital city similar to what is taking place in Medellin, Cali and other major Colombian cities.

Escobar Escape Led to Military Leadership Changes

PA1311222892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report by Sandra Vergara]

[Text] Pablo Escobar Gaviria's escape and the failure of the military operation at Envigado prison have resulted in changes in the country's military leadership. General Manuel Murillo, who led the operations from Santa Fe de Bogota, is no longer in the military high command, and Gen. Farouk Yanine, who participated in the operation although he only followed orders, was not promoted. The changes were completed on 13 November, and other details are now available.

Changes in the Army are occurring at a time when the country is in a state of internal disturbance given the guerrilla groups' and drug traffickers' criminal actions. It is also a time when Congress, the Attorney General's Office, and the Prosecutor General's Office are investigating those responsible for Pablo Escobar Gaviria's escape.

Major General Ramon Emilio Gil Bermudez has been appointed commander of the Armed Forces, replacing Maj. Gen. Luis Eduardo Roca Maichel, who is going to the Army's reserve forces ranks. Gen. Luis Alberto Rodriguez Rodriguez has been appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, replacing Gen. Farouk Yanine Diaz, who has been appointed delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington. Admiral Gustavo Adolfo Angel Mejia leaves the National Navy, and Rear Admiral Hernando Garcia Ramirez has been appointed National Navy commander. Brigadier General Alfonso Abondano has been appointed Air Force commander, replacing Gen. Manuel Jaime Forero Quinonez.

[Begin Gen. Abondano recording] I have experience in public order situations. I am clearly aware of what is taking place in the country, and we are doing everything possible to continue coexisting with the Colombian people and to help the Air Force and our people do whatever they can for Colombia's improvement. [end recording]

The National Newscast was able to learn that Gen. Manuel Sanmiguel Buenaventura will be appointed deputy Army commander; Gen. Camilo Zuniga Chaparro will be appointed inspector general of the military forces; and Gen. Humberto Correa Castaneda will be appointed Army inspector.

Army Brigade, Division Commanders Appointed

PA1411011992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol in Spanish 2019 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The Army has just informed the public of the new brigade and division commander appointments:

Major General Manuel San Miguel Buenaventura is the new second in command of the Army and chief of the Army Staff; Maj. Gen. Luis Humberto Correa Castaneda is now Army inspector general; Gen. Rodolfo Torrado Quintero is commander of the 1st Division stationed in Santa Marta; Harold Bedoya Pizzarro is confirmed as commander of the 2d Division headquartered in Bucaramanga; Jesus Maria Vergara Aragon is the new commander of the 3d Division headquartered in Cali; Gen. Ramon Eduardo Niebles Uscategui was confirmed as commander of the 4th Division headquartered in Villavicencio; Gen. Rafael Hernando Lopez is the commander of the 1st Brigade headquartered in Tunja; Gen. Eduardo Camilo Caldas is commander of the 2d Brigade headquartered in Barranquilla; Gen. Victor Julio Arevalo Pinilla, commander of the 3d Brigade, was confirmed in his post; Gen. Mario Hugo Galan Rodriguez was confirmed as commander of the 4th Brigade headquartered in Medellin; Ramon Emilio Cifuentes Ordonez was ratified as commander of the 5th Brigade; Sigifredo Delgado Caldas is the new commander of the 6th Brigade headquartered in Villavicencio; Celso Suarez Martinez is the new commander of the 7th

Brigade headquartered in Villavicencio; Jaime Humberto Cortez Parada is the new commander of the 8th Brigade headquartered in Armenia; Rodolfo Herrera Luna is the new commander of the 9th Brigade; Victor Julio Alvarez Vargas is commander of the 110th brigade headquartered in Tolemaida, Tolima Department; Carlos Mateos Leon-Gomez is the commander of the 11th Brigade headquartered in Monteria; Efrain Serrano Castaneda, Army colonel, is commander of the 12th Brigade; Brigadier General Cristiniano Quinonez is commander of the 13th Brigade headquartered in the Santa Fe de Bogota; Brigadier Ernesto Arteaga Arteaga [title as heard] is commander of the 14th Brigade stationed in Puerto Berrio; Alvaro Hernan Belande Hurtado is commander of the 16th Brigade headquartered in Yopal, this military unit will begin operating at the beginning of 1993; Gen. Fernando Tapia Sterling is the new director of the Military School in Santa Fe de Bogota; Col. Fernando Milian Perez is commander of the 20th Brigade headquartered in Santa Fe de Bogota; Col. Ricardo Arturo Acosta Rodriguez is commander of the 21st Brigade headquartered in Santa Fe de Bogota; Brig. Gen. Jose Enrique Moora Rangel is commander of the 1st Mobile Brigade headquartered in Granada, Meta Department; Brig. Gen. Agustin Ardila Uribe was appointed as commander of the 2d Mobile Brigade in Barrancabermeja; Jose Orlando Salazar Gil was appointed by the Colombian Army as director of the Recruiting and Mobilization Department with offices in Santa Fe de Bogota; General Marino Gutierrez Isaza is the new director of the Instruction and Training Department in Santa Fe de Bogota; and, finally, Brig. Gen. Fernando Gonzalez Munoz was appointed as the intendant general of the Army.

Navy Commander Retires, Replacement Takes Over

PA1511182592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Members of the Navy stationed in Santa Fe de Bogota on 13 November gathered at the Defense Ministry to bid farewell to the officer who, for two years and until 13 November, was their commander, Admiral Gustavo Angel Mejia.

Adm. Angel Mejia bid farewell to the Navy after 40 years of service. He issued his last instructions to his successor, Vice Adm. Hernando Garcia Ramirez.

[Begin recording] [Angel Mejia] May God be with you and may you successfully take this ship to safe ports. Congratulations.

[Garcia Ramirez] Thank you, sir. I will try. [end recording]

As of this moment, the former navy commander will devote himself to his personal life.

[Begin Angel Mejia recording] I have very fond memories of the Navy, but I think this farewell ceremony, with all the love and Navy traditions, is the most beautiful memory I will cherish. [end recording]

The Navy will now have another era, that of its new commander, Vice Adm. Hernando Garcia Ramirez, who as of 13 November accepts this new challenge.

[Begin Garcia Ramirez recording] This is a challenge, and as a member of the Navy, I hope to follow in the footsteps of Adm. Angel, who was an excellent commander. [end recording]

Paraguay

Judge Suspends Colorado Party Internal Elections

PY1311154892 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1539 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Judge Rodriguez Kennedy has ordered the suspension of the Colorado Party internal elections scheduled for Sunday, 15 November.

Rodriguez Endorses Suspension

PY1411015992 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] During a visit to Ciudad del Este, President Rodriguez commented this afternoon on the suspension of the Colorado Party internal election. Rodriguez concurred with the court decision ordering the suspension of the election and noted that it is his desire that as many citizens as possible participate in the election.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The suspension is designed to protect the rights of 230,000 Colorado members who, if the election were held on 15 November, would be deprived of the right to vote to which they are entitled under the Constitution. Thus, I sincerely hope that, after thoroughly studying the case, the electoral judge or court may reach a fair decision by allowing all citizens to participate in the election. That is what democracy is all about. We want the largest possible number of citizens to exercise their civic right by casting their ballots at the polls. This is how the people should participate in the government.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your personal opinion on the case, because of the four slates participating in the election, only one has favored the suspension.

[Rodriguez] I already have stated my opinion. My desire is that during this democratic transition period everyone show respect for civic rights in Paraguay and that every Paraguayan citizen, in keeping with the Constitution and the laws, may cast his ballot at the polls. Why should we prevent anyone from voting? Electoral laws and related court decisions must, of course, be respected.

[Reporter] Do you concur then with the decision suspending the election?

[Rodriguez] I do not know if the election was suspended or postponed. I do not believe a postponement could be as harmful as denying the right to vote to 230,000 Colorado members, who thus would be deprived of exercising their rights at the polls.

[Reporter] What is your opinion, Mr. President, about the course taken in the electoral campaign. Harsh criticism has been made, and you yourself have been accused of persecuting Luis Maria Argana, for instance ?

[Rodriguez] That is his opinion. Honestly, I do not persecute anyone. I am a friend of everyone, of all the Paraguayan people. The Paraguayan people have given me their trust; I trust my people too. I am a friend of everyone; I do not persecute anyone.

[Reporter] Would you accept Argana's victory in the Colorado internal election?

[Rodriguez] I would accept the Paraguayan people's decision. Let the Paraguayan people decide. I have stated time and again—and I still maintain the same position—that I will turn power over to that citizen who freely and democratically obtains a clear victory at the polls. I would turn power over to that citizen with much pleasure. [end recording]

Colorado Factions React to Suspension

PY1611001592

[Editorial Report] Asuncion HOY in Spanish on 14 November carries on pages 2 and 3 a 350-word unattributed article on reactions to the judicial decision to suspend the Colorado Party internal elections for presidential candidate, which had been scheduled for 15 November. The article notes that "lawyer Juan Crisostomo Gaona, representing the ticket headed by Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart," requested the suspension of the elections, in light of a decision made by the Asuncion Electoral Court to exclude nearly 200,000 voters from the Colorado voting lists due to "irregular" registration procedures. The Asuncion Electoral Court thus accepted a petition filed by Colorado presidential hopeful Senator Gustavo Diaz de Vivar. Elizardo Bobadilla Cataldi, president of the Colorado Party Independent Election Board, acknowledged the judicial decision and said the board will meet with Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme on 19 November to decide on another date for holding the internal elections. Judge Rodriguez Kennedy, who decided to suspend the elections, said he made this decision "to safeguard the interests of the Colorado Party and of the internal elections," and that "the Supreme Court of Justice will be the final arbiter" in making a decision on this problem.

On the same day HOY carries on page 2 a 200-word unattributed article noting that Juan Crisostomo Gaona "considered the decision made by the judge to suspend the internal Colorado elections 'fair.' He added that after appropriate judicial procedures the 200,000 voters excluded from the voting lists will be able to vote in the upcoming internal elections."

HOY carries on page 3 of the same issue another 200-word unattributed article reporting that lawyer Diogenes Martinez, representing Colorado presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana, said: "No judge outside the Electoral Court may make election decisions. This is under the domain of the Supreme Court of Justice." He added: "This is evidently a question of manipulation by the government. Without a doubt." He also guaranteed that his movement "will not withdraw from the current internal elections."

On the same page of the 14 November issue, HOY carries another 200-word unattributed report with statements by lawyer Isidro Melgarejo Pereira, representing Colorado presidential hopeful Gustavo Diaz de Vivar, who said that "this is a juridical aberration," and that the court decision "is unconstitutional and non-jurisdictional."

In turn, Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 14 November carries on page 4 a 200-word unattributed article with statements by Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme, who expressed satisfaction at the court decision to suspend the internal elections. He said that "more than 200,000 party members could not be excluded; that is too many." He added that "some factions" had resorted to excluding these voters from the voting lists "as a final resource" in face of the few votes they will obtain.

Armed Forces Not To Intervene in Electoral Process

PY1411165992 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Nov 92 p 6

[Excerpt] Army Commander General Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos yesterday explained that the Armed Forces will not take action should the Argana movement win the Colorado Party internal elections. He said "the Armed Forces are committed to respecting the democratic game." However, he warned that some reaction could occur should there be some scandalous fraud or serious disorders that might tarnish the legitimacy of the Colorado Party internal elections.

He explained that the Armed Forces will not take any action against an enemy that has no weapons and termed "almost impossible" a military action should Dr. Luis Maria Argana win the internal elections. "To do so would be a barbarous action and a remote option," he said.

Gen. De la Cruz Ocampos added that military intelligence personnel have nothing concrete regarding possible acts of sabotage on the eve of the Colorado Party internal elections. "We are not aware of that matter, and military intelligence has no information on the issue either," he said.

The army commander explained that on the day of the elections Army troops will be in a state of readiness, which consists of confining military troops to their barracks to receive orders and to carry out actions if ordered to do so by the commander in chief.

He explained that the work of safeguarding the elections will be carried out jointly with police forces throughout the country, adding that special attention will be paid to those zones considered contentious.

We will take action in accordance with the needs to safeguard the Colorado Party elections, and we will adopt an eminently deterrent action to maintain order and the tranquillity of the people, he said by way of explanation of the role to be played by the military.

He added that the idea will be to guarantee the transportation of people to the voting places and to try to prevent abuses, confrontations, or any attempt of rebellion on election day.

"We have decided to deploy troops near voting places to keep to a minimum any possible outbreak of violence," he said.

When asked about reports issued by some leaders of the Argana camp that some conscripts who should have already been discharged from the Army are being kept in service with the purpose of having them vote for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, he said the reports are not true. He added that at this time of the year there are no contingents of soldiers to be discharged. [passage omitted]

Radio Accuses Wasmosy of Copying Argana Speech

PY1311133092 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 0900 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] During last night's rallies [held by the pre-candidates in the Colorado Party internal elections] it became obvious that someone copied someone else's speech.

Dr. Luis Maria Argana's speech, which was broadcast by Channel 13 and published by the newspaper ULTIMA HORA yesterday afternoon, has caused a stir. The doubt remains as to who copied whom.

We have just received a fax from the Project Argana '93 Movement Press and Propaganda Commission [Comision de Prensa y Propaganda del Movimiento Proyecto Argana '93], which reads as follows:

With astonishment, we heard the speech read by Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy during the rally to close his electoral campaign. Almost every passage of the speech is a faithful copy of a speech that this commission drew up on Monday 9 November on the instructions of Dr. Luis Maria Argana. In this speech, Dr. Argana personally specified the points to be addressed. According to the communique, Dr. Argana personally drew up several passages, corrected them, and expanded them.

This speech totally reflects Dr. Luis Maria Argana's belief, which he has expressed in various speeches at various rallies during the political campaign.

Dr. Luis Maria Argana's closing words were published in the newspaper ULTIMA HORA in its 12 November issue and recorded by the RPC [Television Network] at Dr. Argana's house on Tuesday 10 November at 1800, as the RPC operators can confirm.

On 11 November, Dr. Argana sent a recording of his speech to the Radio Nanawa director for the latter to make copies and distribute to all Asuncion radio stations and radio stations in the interior of the country.

According to this communique, issued by the Project Argana '93 Movement Press and Propaganda Commission, Engineer Wasmosy has plagiarized Dr. Luis Maria Argana's speech.

It seems that even [pre-candidate] Gustavo Diaz de Vivar agrees with this opinion. In remarks to Radio Nanduti last night—incidentally, we, at Radio Cardinal, were off the air due to technical problems—Diaz de Vivar apparently said: I am surprised to hear that Dr. Argana prepares Engineer Wasmosy's speeches.

Let us see what Engineer Wasmosy's people have to say about this issue which—I suspect—was spotted by more than one viewer last night.

Argana Campaign Issues Statement

PY1411154492 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 5

[Excerpt] The movement of Luis Maria Argana has also accused the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket of copying Argana's closing campaign speech in the wake of the unbelievable news that yesterday surprised the people in general, due to the duplication of the speeches released by the two candidates. The press and propaganda commission of the Reconciliation Movement of the Colorado Party Argana-93 project issued a statement on the matter:

"With astonishment we listened to the speech read by Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy. In almost all paragraphs, it is a faithful copy of the speech prepared by this commission following instructions given by Dr. Argana on Monday, 9 November," the communique states. It adds that Argana himself has dictated the points that had to be focused on in the speech, and "he even reviewed, corrected, and expanded several paragraphs."

"This speech fully reflects the thinking of Dr. Argana which he has expressed in several speeches made at various electoral campaign rallies," the statement says. [passage omitted]

Wasmosy Accuses Argana of 'Copying'

PY1411130492 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 4

[Excerpt] The press and propaganda committee of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket this morning released a lengthy accusation against the movement led by Luis Maria Argana. The Wasmosy-Seifart ticket expresses its "indignation" over "a number of electoral maneuvers intended to confuse public opinion" and especially over the "similarity" of the messages released by the two main candidates in their respective closing campaign rallies [on 12 November].

"From the very beginning of this electoral process our ticket has had to tolerate continuous copying of our campaign scheme," the communique states. [passage omitted]

'Nonradioactive Pollutants' Found Buried in Chaco

PY1611151392 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Nov 92 p 9

[Article by "special envoy" Nelson Avezada]

[Excerpts] Fortin Teniente Ochoa, Chaco—Higher criminal court Judge Angel Barchini has come to this area, located more than 530 km northeast of Asuncion, to inspect the place where toxic substances reportedly have been spotted, in a place northeast of the Battalion 4 headquarters in this area, where several buried containers were found.

After more than a day of intensive searching in the arid western Paraguayan territory, the search group finally spotted more than 200 containers that had been buried in the middle of the Chaco desert.

The waste from developed countries—buried more than 25,000 km south of the place where it originated—consists of material that the search group's experts considered "nonradioactive pollutants." [passage omitted]

The search group was made up of Deputy Francisco Jose de Vargas; Dr. Rogelio Rojas Ramirez, the director of the Department of Radiology Protection and Nuclear Safety of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA]; CNEA radiology protection chief Luis More; Nuclear Assistance Department Director Julio Cabello, who is also the CNEA director; and SENASA [National Service for Environmental Sanitation] official Mario Escobar.

Peru

Reportage on 13 Nov Army Officials' Coup Attempt

Presidency Issues Communique

PA1311192092 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1850 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] President Fujimori has changed his mind about granting the press conference he had promised the local and international press a few minutes ago. The Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, however, has sent us an official communique informing the public of the following:

1. Early on the morning of 13 November, a tiny group of Army officials, led by retired Division Generals Jaime Salinas, Jose Pastor Vives, and Luis Palomino Rodriguez, and Commander (Marco Tara Ferota), the latter being under investigation by the Investigations Council because he was found to be linked to drug trafficking, attempted to take over the Army General Command and the Government Palace for the purpose of arresting the commanding general of the Army and killing the head of state.

2. This abortive criminal attempt sought to prevent the electoral process for the Democratic Constituent Assembly and install a regime which, under the pretext of restoring the system that existed prior to 5 April, would take power for its own benefit.

3. The individuals involved in the crazy attempt are under arrest and will be tried immediately for crimes described and sanctioned in existing legislation.

4. The situation in the entire country is absolutely normal. The Armed Forces and the National Police continue fulfilling the missions and tasks they have been given. The National Emergency and Reconstruction Government reaffirms its objective of fulfilling the established steps for the establishment of an authentic democracy in Peru.

5. The government will continue to undertake its objective of total moralization—dismissing all corrupt individuals and preventing their return to public administration. It reaffirms its commitment to bring peace to the country, eradicating the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement in mid-1993 and the Shining Path before 1994.

[Issued] Lima, 13 November 1992

[Signed] Press Secretary of the Peruvian Presidency

Ministers Support Fujimori

PA1411024292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Report by Miguel Seminario Reina]

[Text] Various state ministers went to the Government Palace on the evening of 13 November to reaffirm their loyalty and solidarity with President Alberto Fujimori. The head of state also met with a delegation of Japanese observers. A tense calm prevails in the area around the Government Palace. Ministers have began arriving one by one since 1800 to convey their solidarity with the president. Economy Minister Carlos Bolona was the first to arrive, and Agriculture Minister Absalon Vasquez Villanueva was the last. We could not confirm the presence of Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada,

who reportedly flew to the United States this morning. Change 90 Secretary General Andres Reggiardo Sayan and Deputy Secretary General Luz Salgado are also with Fujimori now. Meanwhile, traffic has been blocked all along the Plaza de Armas area from Bancai Avenue on the left side to Cayoma Avenue on the right. Pedestrian traffic is normal, but groups of people are not allowed inside the square.

Authorities Identify Coup Leaders

PA1411025192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] The leaders of the coup attempt have been identified as retired Division Generals Jose Pastor Vives, Jaime Salinas Sedo, and Luis Palomino Rodriguez, as well as active Commander Marcos Zarate Rota. All of them have been arrested and are awaiting court martials.

The three generals, all of whom graduated with honors, were urged to retire in 1991 at a time in their careers when they were next in line to become the commanding general of the Army. Palomino and Pastor held the post of chief of the military household of the Government Palace during the administration of Alan Garcia, who is currently under asylum in Colombia. Salinas was inspector general of the Army and retired when he was delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

The Immigration Police at Lima International Airport have been instructed by the Interior Ministry not to allow any military officers to leave the country, apparently trying to prevent the escape of the plotters. A military source said that Salinas, one of the generals who is accused in the official communique and who is reportedly under arrest, lives in Washington since he retired.

One of the coupists is under arrest at the state security installations. He was arrested after the police raided his home at San Borja. He is retired Gen. Jose Pastor Vives.

Following the criminal plot against President Alberto Fujimori, the government announced the names of the retired Army generals: Jaime Salinas Sedo, Luis Palomino Rodriguez, and Jose Pastor Vives, as well as Commander Marcos Zarate Rota, as the persons responsible for the foiled coup d'etat.

Even though the official communique pointed out that the four individuals involved in the criminal attempt were under arrest, Gen. Jose Pastor Vives was in his home at 464 Cavalini Avenue, San Borja, as if nothing had happened. In statements to the media, he said he did not participate in any action to break the current democracy.

In the midst of a large police mobilization, the retired general allegedly responsible for the criminal attempt was taken to the state security installations.

Military Confirms Arrest of Leader

PA1411011792 Paris AFP in Spanish 0014 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Lima, 13 Nov (AFP)—Military sources have confirmed that General Jose Pastor Vives, charged with heading the 13 November coup d'etat in Peru against President Alberto Fujimori, was arrested by the police. Earlier, Pastor Vives had told AFP that he was "innocent" and that he was "surprised" by the official announcement involving him in a coup d'etat "of which I know nothing."

The communique from the Government Palace in Lima reporting on the failed coup stated that a "tiny group of Army officers, headed by retired Generals Jaime Salinas Sedo, Jose Pastor Vives, and Louis Palomino Rodriguez tried to seize power. [no end quotation mark as received]

Pastor said that he was the "first to be surprised" by [the allegations of his] heading a coup in Peru and that "he has never intended to take over the Army General Headquarters or the Government Palace" as reported in the communique. "It is outrageous to say I am a member of an alleged group that wanted to kill President Fujimori," Gen. Pastor told AFP at his home before being arrested. The officer ruled out the possibility that the other two generals mentioned in the communique may have wanted to seize power. "One of them is in Miami, United States," he said without revealing the name.

The official communique stated that all those involved in the coup attempt were under arrest. In the case of Pastor Vives, his arrest took place several hours later and after police cars surrounded his home in the San Borja district, approximately 7 km southeast of downtown Lima.

General Pastor Vives was chief of the military house of former President Alan Garcia and, after being promoted to division general, he passed in an untimely manner to retirement due to a government decision, before the time stipulated by the norms for retirement.

President Addresses Nation

PA1411052592 Lima Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0416 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Address by President Alberto Fujimori; place not given—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, good evening.

As you well understand, it is my duty as chief of state to inform the citizenry about the events that took place in Lima on the morning of 13 November.

In the early hours of 13 November, the National Intelligence Service detected a plan aimed, first of all, at capturing General Nicolas de Bari Hermosa Rios, general commander of the Army and president of the Army Joint Staff, by a group of men headed by Major Caceres.

Second, the plan aimed for a group of men under the command of Major Hugo Ormeno Huapaya to murder the president of the republic. Obviously, once this plan was discovered, I left the Government Palace for an Army garrison. This operation was done with the greatest reserve, so that the seditious act could continue and thus the ramifications of this criminal conspiracy could be detected.

We had prior information that at 1900 on 12 November there had been a meeting at 4460 Republic of Panama Avenue, Miraflores District, with the participation of retired Generals Jaime Salinas Sedo, Jose Pastor Vives, and Ernesto Obando, also retired Maj. Salvador Carmona Bernasconi, and active Commanders Raul Montero Castro and Marcos Zarate Rota, among others.

The plotters left at a certain moment, intending to meet again at the same place at 0300 on 13 November. At that time, there were to be simultaneous operations to capture Gen. Hermoza and to murder the president of the republic. Gen. Salinas Sedo arrived at this address at 0300, but when he observed loyal forces there, he tried to escape in an armored vehicle. He failed and was captured, along with all the documents on the sinister plan.

As for the attempt to murder the president of the republic, it was frustrated, first because I moved to another place. Maj. Hugo Ormeno Huapaya tried to lead 35 men from the Rimac Armored Division, but he was unable to obtain the support of his troops. This officer was heavily armed with grenades, a crowbar, and a dagger. He was ready to enter the Government Palace just at the change of guard and to take advantage of his status as second highest-ranking officer of the military police battalion, in charge of guarding the very same seat of government.

The retired officers I have mentioned had this man inside the palace, so to speak, to murder me. They did not need a lot of troops or a large mobilization of armored vehicles.

The most important achievement of the intellectual authors of this outrageous adventure is that they emerged from a discreet anonymity. The plotters ignored some basic issues:

First, that the president of the republic has the majority support of the population. It is not the president of the republic who rejects him, who asks him to leave.

Second, they did not gain the support of any sector of the Armed Forces.

Third, none of them has any moral authority over the officers. Among them is a commander who is being investigated for his connections with narcotics trafficking.

In their delirium, these individuals probably tried to imitate nationalist military men who are struggling against corrupt regimes, who are rejected by the people in other parts of the world, but they made a mistake with regard to the country and the national situation.

This incident would have much less importance than it appears to have if we were not in an election process. It is precisely this process, however, which some well-known political sectors want to prevent at any expense.

Once again, however, the Peruvian people have rejected those who, under the pretext of defending a democracy one believes in, are capable of any action to defend their interests and privileges.

At a moment when Peru is advancing toward its pacification following many years of failure, demented actions such as this better serve terrorism and its goals.

It is completely comdemnable that this unpatriotic attitude is linked to those who once wore the fatherland's uniform.

With their rejection, the people already have condemned them. The Peruvian people must be completely certain that the process that will lead us to the Democratic Constituent Congress remains unchanged.

Let us then continue working as we have done until now to reconstruct our country economically, socially, and politically

Thank you.

President Interviewed on Failed Attempt

PA1411221592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1429 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Dennis Vargas, host of the "Saturday Focus" program; Ricardo Uceda, director of SI Magazine; Alejandro Sakuda, director of the newspaper LA REPUBLICA; and Jaime de Althaus, general editor of the EXPRESO newspaper; at studios in Lima; from the "Saturday Focus" program—live]

[Text] [Vargas] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We are at a very special political moment. We are only eight days away from the Democratic Constituent Congress elections, which are viewed as the chance to return to democratic constitutionality. Absolutely unexpected developments, however, have jeopardized this election and the return to democracy and constitutionality.

We all know what happened early on 13 November. There was a failed coup d'etat and an alleged attempt to assassinate the republic's president. Understandably, the world currently is monitoring the situation in our country. We must move on and continue to seek progress and development for our country.

Given this situation, President Alberto Fujimori is with us. We thank him very much for coming to the Radio Programas del Peru studios to reflect, report, and clarify these developments. During the 1990 electoral campaign, he made two successful visits. As we welcomed

him then, we welcome him today with the same cordiality. Mr. President, good morning and welcome to the "Saturday Focus" program of Radio Programas.

[Fujimori] Good morning to all listeners. This is a special opportunity. We probably will drift away from the subject at hand, but it will allow us to make some clarifications.

[Vargas] What happened, Mr. President, now that a few hours have passed and there is greater calm? How did you learn about the developments? You left the government palace in the early morning and were taken to Army headquarters, commonly known as the Little Pentagon. How did you learn about the developments in time to leave? Could you tell us the details?

[Fujimori] Some details on this coup attempt have been revealed already in my televised message on the evening of 13 November. First, I must clarify that I was not taken away; nobody takes me anywhere [chuckles]. I am the president of the republic and I am the one who orders where I go. I am not usually in any particular place. That is one of the recommended security measures: never follow a routine. By midnight, in fact, I had received information.

[Vargas] You knew what was going to happen?

[Fujimori] Yes, of course.

[Vargas] This means the intelligence service worked?

[Fujimori] The intelligence service works not only in the area of military security, but also, as has been confirmed, in the struggle against terrorism. It was midnight. I received confirmation—we had had initial reports of this, of course, we are not that naive, at least I am not [chuckles]—and then...

[Vargas, interrupting] Someone said one should not be naive in politics.

[Fujimori] As you know, I do not subscribe to that policy. I decided at that time to move to a place which was not the Little Pentagon. Certain information reported by the media is untrue and merely speculative. This is constructive criticism [chuckles]. They fill pages with this because they must sell, I understand. I did not go to the Little Pentagon; I went to another place.

We allowed this evil plot to be carried out as planned by this small group of rebellious retired and active soldiers, to discover all their branches. Perhaps we could give more details throughout the program.

[Vargas] Our panel today is made up of SI Magazine Director Ricardo Uceda, LA REPUBLICA Director Alejandro Sakuda, and EXPRESO General Editor Jaime de Althaus. Ricardo Uceda will pose the next question. Welcome, Ricardo.

[Uceda] Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Fujimori. Our two colleagues and I are curious about this, as curious as a child. The first question is: Would you rule out the direct or indirect participation in this movement of General Jose Valdivia, the Army chief of staff?

[Fujimori] We have said nothing about Gen. Valdivia's participation. I actually trust him. Owing to simple military security measures he may not leave his residence until this incident is totally clarified.

[Uceda] In other words, he is virtually under arrest?

[Fujimori] No, he may not leave his residence. The same applies to Generals Obando and Block.

[Uceda] Regarding the facts as you reported them and according to the communique released on 13 November, this movement, this coup attempt, was conducted by a handful of low-ranking officers in alliance with certain retired generals. Many questions come to mind when I consider that this handful of individuals had planned to stage an assault and capture the Peruvian Armed Forces' general commander. I must ask you how these people—who obviously disagree with your government—can be so reckless as to attempt to accomplish the dual goal of murdering you and capturing none other than the Peruvian Armed Forces general commander, as few as they were, especially as they apparently have no connections with other active officers. Obviously, my question seeks to clarify or determine whether or not there are other supposedly important active officers behind the incident?

[Fujimori] Your question picks up on the public assertions made by General Pastor Vives regarding how a handful of low-ranking officers could attack the government palace and Armed Forces General Command. The explanation, coincidentally, came immediately in the message that was presented. For example, in the case of the occupation of the Government Palace, it would not be carried out by a very large group, but by individuals who had been chosen by Gen. Salinas Sedo, a general who has trusted friends among certain officers. One of these trusted officers was a military police officer, none other than the second man in command at the palace garrison. Since he was the second in command, who at the change of shift during the evening became the top commander, it would have been easy for them to get into the government palace. Therefore, it is a totally unfounded statement to say a handful of men could not accomplish this goal. This has been fully explained and the purpose was—as it is stated in the plan seized from Gen. Salinas Sedo—to eliminate the president of the republic. In fact, Major Hugo Ormeno Huapaya had the weapons to accomplish this goal; he even had crowbars, a tool used to break doors. This, I repeat, is perfectly feasible and Gen. Pastor Vives is even more aware of this because he was chief of the palace garrison during Alan Garcia's administration.

[Vargas] Jaime de Althaus.

[Althaus] Mr. President, along the lines of the previous question, I must confess that on 13 November when I

was at the newspaper, at a certain point I got the feeling this was somewhat artificial. We heard that two of the generals involved in the plot—against whom charges of leading the coup have been leveled in the communique—had spent the entire night sleeping in their homes; one of them was captured at 1000 at home and the other while he took his daughter to school the following day, I believe. If I were a coupist and the coup had failed, I would have hidden or escaped; I would not remain at home sleeping and waiting to be captured. Moreover, apparently no one had arrived at the palace to stage the coup except for a major and it is not clear whether or not Major Hugo Ormeno arrived at the palace to attempt to carry out his mission. There are issues that have not been sufficiently explained. The entire incident somehow seems to have been staged or artificial. What motives would these people have? I have heard that Generals Salinas, Palomino and Pastor are not crazy; they are intelligent and very professional men who had a certain amount of prestige within the Army. It would be crazy for them to attempt to murder the president and also establish democracy by convoking general elections and so forth, which is what the communique states. They would require very broad support within the body of officers. How do you explain all this?

[Vargas] The president of the republic answers.

[Fujimori] Before answering the question, I must explain something. Every time reporters ask questions they make certain assertions that must be explained. Otherwise, my friends, these assertions would be viewed as factual. It all seems staged, artificial. Mr. de Althaus speaks of a prefabrication by the government and says no one went to the palace. The documents and facts we have revealed are proof. Major Hugo Ormeno Huapaya, who was in the armored division at (Fort Rimac), attempted to leave the headquarters at 0300 with 40 men, six of whom were close to him. The plan, of course, was discovered and Ormeno was arrested or rather, a colonel attempted to arrest him outside (Fort Rimac). He did not heed the order and managed to leave. The 35 men, however, were retained. This was, textually, according to Gen. Salinas' order, a no-retreat operation. The major left (Fort Rimac) with his six men aboard a Jeep Wrangler and approached the palace. There was obviously nothing blocking his access to the area surrounding the palace or preventing him from entering it because he was the highest ranking officer within the palace's internal security force at the time. That is when...

[De Althaus, interrupting] Did he manage to enter?

[Fujimori] He did not because we had been alerted. On the way there, he talked to his chauffeur, Sergeant Roger Zapata Acuna. Upon learning the purpose of this operation, Sgt. Zapata abandoned Maj. Ormeno. The major continued with his plot, thinking he would have access to palace because of his rank, but he finally was arrested at the bridge leading to Abancay Avenue. Grenades were hanging from his shoulders, and he had a crowbar and a knife with him.

[De Althaus] Was he alone at the time?

[Fujimori] He was with six men; actually, he was with five men at the time.

[De Althaus] Not even one shot was fired?

[Fujimori] Not even one because Maj. Ormeno was surrounded by armored vehicles. I am sort of speculating when I say that at the time Maj. Hugo Ormeno had no idea the government palace had been alerted...

[De Althaus, interrupting] That it had complete control of the situation.

[Fujimori] Complete control of the situation. That aspect is totally clear now. As for the motivation, there obviously must be a black hand behind this. What kind of political movement... [coughs] is behind it? We have not yet determined this completely. The interrogations and analysis of seized documents continue. What is clear, however, is that Gen. Salinas Sedo is known for his, let us call it belligerent proclivity, not only during this administration, but since long ago. There are obviously other political interests behind this. Let us not be so naive.

I am talking about a very small group of officers. About 20-25 active and retired officers were arrested. I said a very small group because the Armed Forces have about 15,000 officers.

[Vargas] Alejandro Sakuda, of LA REPUBLICA, is next. Welcome, Alejandro.

[Sakuda] Thank you and good morning. Mr. President, in the communique the Press Secretariat issued, it is stated Gen. Palomino Rodriguez is involved. In your message on the evening of 13 November, however, you did not mention him. What is your explanation for this omission?

[Fujimori] We have information that Gen. Palomino had indirect participation. For example, Gen. Palomino did not participate in the 6 and 11 November meetings. But his name appears in documents that were seized from Gen. Salinas Sedo as a possible member of the future commando unit, and eventually of the government. That is his situation.

The investigations have shed some light. Gen. Ernesto Obando Salas, retired, also was mentioned in the televised message. Also involved was his brother, Brigadier General Manuel Obando Salas. Both participated very actively in all these meetings. These generals are very close to Gen. Salinas Sedo. They were the contacts with the active Army members.

[Sakuda] Mr. President, did the conspiracy involve only active and retired Army officers or members of the Air Force and Navy?

[Fujimori] Information available to us so far indicates no Air Force or Navy involvement. They are mentioned in

some documents, but I repeat, this does not confirm participation. I prefer to talk frankly about those who are mentioned, but this does not mean, I repeat, involvement on their part. Perhaps they were in Gen. Salinas Sedo's mind. There are still two people to be investigated. One name I remember is Admiral Vargas Prado.

[Sakuda] Mr. President, what is the status of these officers? Are they under arrest or house arrest?

[Fujimori] Gen. Salinas Sedo is...

[Sakuda, interrupting] Pardon me, I am referring to the admiral you just mentioned and those who were mentioned in the documents.

[Fujimori] No, they are not.

[Vargas] Mr. President, we want to inform you that Radio Cadena Nacional [RCN] of Colombia, which is a member—as is Radio Programas del Peru—of Solar, the Latin American Radio Broadcasting Society, wishes to carry this important interview. They could join our network if you give your permission.

[Fujimori] Certainly.

[Vargas] You are very kind, Mr. President. Henceforth, Radio Programas del Peru is transmitting for the Solar network, the Latin American Radio Broadcasting Society, which is made up of RCN of Colombia, Ecuador Radio of the Radio Quito network, Radio Panamericana of Bolivia, and Radio Rumbos of Venezuela. Henceforth, the Solar network is interconnected.

We return to the subject, Mr. President. You gave details of this coup attempt. Do you know how long they had been plotting this or was this a sudden action? Was this attempt discovered after a long investigation? How do you assess this development given that our countries are characterized by a number of coups that threaten our weak and budding democracy permanently?

[Fujimori] The plotting of a conspiracy of this nature requires a long time. It requires good planning from all standpoints: political, military, and publicity. From this latter standpoint, they even had a full plan of charges and accusations to discredit the government and attempt to win over certain segments of the population. Let me go into this issue of the publicity plan we uncovered. It seems some of this is being exposed now that an election is upcoming. Charges are being leveled against the government with no justification. One such charge deals with mismanagement of the police pension fund. As you know, this fund involves several million dollars. There has been mismanagement in previous administrations, but my government restored order there. There was going to be a campaign to discredit the by-then toppled government so as to win over the support of police officers. That is one of the examples contained in the plan. This entire concept and these details require time. I suppose this was planned in advance. As for the operational portion, the implementation itself...

[Vargas, interrupting] When was it started?

[Fujimori] Contacts probably were made weeks in advance, and the plan launched by retired infantry Maj. Salvador Carmona Bernasconi. He was the partner of building owner Alfredo Camino who, by the way, does not seem to be involved. Maj. Carmona, under the orders of Gen. Salinas, began to meet with these officers and plan the operation. The details—including dates, hours, itinerary, and men involved—were defined in the last week, in the last six or seven days. Maj. Cesar Alberto Caceres Haro, for example, attended his first meeting on 6 November in a house on La Chira Street in Zurco District, near the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant.

[Vargas] Surco seems to be a bad place because many things happen in Surco and Surquillo. [laughter]

[Fujimori] I do not know why. At any rate, he took part in that meeting. I will reveal the names of some who attended it: Gen. Jaime Salinas Sedo; Gen. Manuel Obando Salas; Gen. Victor Obando Salas, retired; Gen. Luis Soriano Morgan, retired; Commander Luis Ruiz y Urquizo; Commander Jose Chavez Begazo; Arturo Moreno Alcantara; Commander Marco Zarate Rota; infantry Maj. Hugo Ormeno, who was in charge of assassinating me; infantry Maj. Salvador Carmona, retired; Mr. Jaime Eduardo Salinas Lopez Torres, son of Gen. Salinas; civilian Santos Francisco Alvarez Gallardo, who works at the Alas Factory as a watchman; and Mr. Jorge Victor Polack Merel. The meeting was held on 6 November.

[Vargas] Is Mr. Polack related to the National Election Board president [Cesar Polack]?

[Fujimori] I cannot confirm or deny that. Gen. Pastor Vives arrived at this meeting a little late, at 2130. It is not true that Gen. Pastor Vives did not participate in the meetings, nor is it true that Gen. Salinas Sedo is in Miami. Then there was a meeting at the same place on 11 November, starting at 2245; the same people attended. On 12 November at 0700, or rather at 1900, they met again to finalize the details for the execution of their plans on D-Day, H-Hour.

[Vargas] (?Was there a) plan?

[Fujimori] The specific plan established at the fourth meeting was the following: They agreed to meet at 0300 on 13 November at the [word indistinct] factory. As you all know, we surrounded the factory with intelligence and command people, and waited for the people involved to arrive. In effect, they all arrived and shortly before 0300 Gen. Salinas Sedo arrived and stayed for a few minutes. Concurrently, one of the generals, Gen. Obando, was being arrested. Gen. Obando's arrest at home upset the group. Obando took advantage of his arrest at home to call Gen. Salinas Sedo. When Salinas Sedo found out the conspiracy had been discovered, he left the factory hastily, took the vehicle, and attempted to flee. A gunfight ensued, one of his aides was wounded—

the only person wounded, I might add—and he was arrested. We seized from him a briefcase with documents, some of them in Gen. Salinas Sedo's own handwriting. What most draws my attention is the vehicle's ownership. I do not want to level any charges, but strangely enough the vehicle driven by Gen. Salinas Sedo's people was an armored vehicle with license plate No. 8112, owned by Mr. Vera Gutierrez. It is a blue, 1989 Toyota Land Cruiser.

[Vargas] It could have been stolen. It would be premature to say [words indistinct].

[Fujimori] Of course. I am simply providing information.

[Vargas] Mr. President, all of the information we are receiving on this program forces me to change the name of the program. We could call it—colleagues and friends—X-ray of the coup. A question by Ricardo Uceda:

[Uceda] There is something in the X-ray regarding the manner in which the coup unfolded that remains unclear to me. I believe Engineer Fujimori has the details on how this group operated, and it is evident they were followed up extensively. We even could consider it a given that a handful of men attempted to take the life of Engineer Fujimori or to detain or capture Gen. Hermoza. What is not clear to me is what happened afterward because if this group had no connections with the active Armed Forces, the possibility of a change of command would be null. This is why it seems significant to me that although he was not arrested, Gen. Valdivia is being investigated. It means—at least from my point of view—that a part of this story remains unknown and it involves or may involve active duty officers. To this end, at the magazine we have a tentative explanation—just as you have provided an explanation with information that has not yet been confirmed or proven. According to this explanation, the coupist group was going to denounce a certain amount of fraud on the government's part in the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] elections. I do not mean there was going to be generalized cheating in the elections, but the coupists were going to report the existence of a plan in the Armed Forces. The plan consisted of using intelligence and Army personnel to annul blank and adulterated votes. [sentence as heard] Naturally, I suppose you will say the report is totally false. However, I would like to ask you specifically: What did the coupists say during their interrogation regarding their political announcement and their report on the CCD election? What were they going to do with the rest of the political forces? Were they going to appoint Maximo San Roman as the constitutional president? Were they going to call for general elections? How were they going to protest the CCD elections?

[Vargas] This is the "Saturday Focus" program. The panelists ask questions and President Alberto Fujimori answers their questions.

[Fujimori] Before answering, I would like to ask the journalist a question. I would like him to give me the source of the information he has just given. We have to talk with total honesty here.

[Uceda] It is a military source. I cannot tell you....

[Fujimori, interrupting] I ask you to please give me the name of the source.

[Uceda] It is impossible for me to do so. I cannot do so for ethical reasons....

[Fujimori, interrupting] I would like to take advantage of this program....

[Uceda, interrupting] I cannot do so. What I cannot do....

[Fujimori, interrupting] Please allow me to interrupt....

[Uceda, interrupting] Of course.

[Fujimori] If you allow me, I want to make something clear to everyone. I want to underscore the way information is manipulated in Peru. I will respect—as I currently am doing—full freedom of expression and the media's liberty. Happily, the Peruvian reader is aware and is very critical of the way information is handled. A few media sources—I say a few—use conditional clauses that slant a sentence and make it appear as an affirmative sentence. An example of this would be the use of the phrase: It would be [habria]. I call this to the attention of the critical reader. That is why I have asked the journalist for the source of his information. I believe some of this information—forgive me for talking with such frankness—is speculative and some is outright lies to fill lines and sell more newspapers. Happily, the level of awareness is high in Peru and citizens are very critical of the information they receive and will not allow manipulation. This is the clarification I wanted to make.

[Vargas] I do not know if Ricardo wants to make another comment before the president starts to answer the original question?

[Uceda] Yes, well, the journalist's job is to gather and match information. I am asking a question right now. This is our number one rule. I want to obtain information, and thus ask questions. We have obtained information and want you to tell us if, during the interrogations, the people who were arrested have stated that they were going to report fraud in the CCD elections?

[Fujimori] Perfect. I will proceed to answer now that I have clarified the situation on the manipulation of information.

I will refer first to the question on how a handful of men could have carried out an operation of this type. It has been demonstrated that it is possible. Journalist Uceda has admitted this. What is not clear is the connection to active Armed Forces personnel. There were, of course, connections with a few officers on active duty, such as Gen. Obando; He is a general on active duty, one of the

Obando brothers. There has been speculation about contacts with Gen. Valdivia. I repeat, Gen. Valdivia is and always has been a man who has the trust of the president of the republic. Everybody knows this, even SI Magazine. That is why we have not presented any charges.

The only thing is that it did catch the attention of the Armed Forces command that when all the members of the higher command were summoned General Valdivia did not show up at 0300 [chuckles] or 0330 that morning. This gives rise to speculation. Where was he? I do not think he was, say,—and here I am being facetious—at a small bar, and this was his bad luck. To be sure, some contacts were made. What was the purpose? I have stated already that they had propaganda to denounce the government of a series of allegedly wrongful actions. After assassinating me and capturing General Hermoza, they would have launched a campaign to discredit us for immoralities, corruption, and so on and so forth, so as to justify their presence in government and justify the assassination. Of course, their plans included—and this is contained in a document—denouncing the government for having committed fraud. This had a very clear goal. No, I cannot show these documents yet, but one of them called for the postponement of the CCD elections for one year.

Their plans—this information contained in that document—included calling on the political parties to restore the situation that prevailed on 4 April. They also had a mimeographed statement. That is the situation.

[Vargas] This is "Saturday Focus," and here is Jaime de Althaus to ask a question:

[De Althaus] Mr. President, one also would have to analyze the profound causes behind this incident. It seems this coup attempt is linked to discontent in the Armed Forces, or at least in some sectors of the Armed Forces, and comprises several elements. An element common to all of them are low wages or wages that do not increase. Alongside wages that do not go up is the implementation of a process to raise the moral values of the Armed Forces. The Navy has been accused; I mean, embezzlement was reported in the Navy. In the Huallaga region, the Air Force was instructed to control the airports to break the system of corruption or the payments collected from drug traffickers. As everybody knows, Armed Forces personnel, chiefly Army personnel, were involved in this. They collected payment to allow light airplanes to leave the airports. This system of payments or corruption was broken, and it clearly causes discontent, as wages are not raised to compensate for the loss of this revenue.

In addition, a decree was issued yesterday authorizing the government to reduce the number of officers, from generals to captains. I suppose the decree wisely sought to streamline the Armed Forces and to conduct an adjustment or reform within the Armed Forces to reduce the number of officers. As I have been told, the number of officers in Peru is much larger than in the United States, to cite an example. I suppose the purpose is to give higher salaries to the remaining officers and raise the moral values of the Armed Forces so it can be truly serious and institutional.

But some sectors could not tolerate the influence of adviser Vladimiro Montesinos in the reform, selection, promotion, and possible retirement procedures. I have heard some say: Why are we going to have a reform? So Montesinos ultimately may choose who stays? These sectors are opposed to him. On one hand, we have a necessary process of profound reforms that must be conducted in the Armed Forces. On the other hand, however, the one who may be handling the reform is not necessarily liked by all the Armed Forces. These procedures could lend themselves to a personal power play on the part of Montesinos.

This situation may serve as the backdrop for some discontent in a certain sector. The only thing these generals who were retired last year had in common was that the list reportedly was drafted by Mr. Montesinos. I must add that these men were transferred to the ranks of the retirees, but are not retired. What is your view on this theory about officers who are on active duty and feel keenly the problems I have mentioned?

[Fujimori] Thank you for your lengthy commentary, which also allows me to give some explanations. I do not deny salaries are low. Salaries paid by the state are still low. I admit that and have no need to make any explanation or statement about it. All of us are feeling the pinch because we are going through a stabilization period. I think this is not what causes this discontent, but it does mean that the situation for them, as well for all public employees, entails great austerity and sacrifice. However, there is great understanding for the government policies to correct so many irregularities.

It also becomes necessary to explain clearly that the Armed Forces are not unhappy because the president levels a serious charge on the theft—to use the precise word—of $8 million of the Navy fund. Quite the contrary, the Armed Forces also are seeking to upgrade their moral values at all levels. We are aware that contracts and the repairs of some vessels have been mismanaged, or that purchases have been made with some conditions.

The Armed Forces also are committed to fighting drug trafficking. We also are raising the morality of the corps by reporting the few bad officers who—in Ochisa, Tocachi, and mainly in Campanilla—could have been involved in this. One of the men implicated in the coup attempt, Commander Marcos Zarate Rota, was dismissed from his post as commander in the Special Forces Division because he apparently was involved in drug trafficking activities last year while he was in Alto Huallaga. I would say the objective of raising the moral values of the Armed Forces offers an incentive to officers because we notice greater honesty in the handling of state resources.

[Vargas] I do not want to move away from the comments by Jaime de Althaus regarding Article 58, rather, the regulations of Article 58 of Legislative Decree No. 752, published coincidentally yesterday in EL PERUANO official newspaper. It mentioned the six annexes, but they were not published. Why? I am curious to know about this matter. Would you please explain?

[Fujimori] I was going to do that, but Mr. de Althaus made so many comments that I deemed it necessary to explain his commments. I will do that at the end. In some news media, chiefly the dispatches by international news agencies, I suppose because of the vaccuum produced by the lack of information....

[Vargas, interrupting] You mentioned an important aspect. The lack of information sometimes leads one to do many things. That is why we must report the news immediately.

[Fujimori] Speculation arises in the face of this lack of information. EL PERUANO published precisely on 13 November the regulations on the law on the military career. The decree regulates what Article 58 of the the law on the military career orders. It is a legislative decree that even had the support of the Congress.

[De Althaus] Legislative Decree No. 752?

[Fujimori] I must make several explanations about it. The percentages of announced retirements are unchanged. There are no major changes; the system remains the same. The military career law contains some exact details, such as the incentives of granting promotions of up to three ranks for counterterrorist actions, and standarizes or modernizes the system to train officers in the struggle against terrorism. The procedures employed for announced retirements are the same. That has always existed. This system is used in most of the world's armed forces.

[De Althaus] Does that mean the Armed Forces will not undergo changes? Just as the whole society and companies are making adjustments and reducing personnel, will not the very large number of officers be reduced to adjust to the times and be able to give better pay to the remaining officers?

[Fujimori] I am referring to the announced retirements; that means the retirements carried out by means of decrees and does not refer to the officer who resigns or has reached the mandatory retirement age. The organization of the uses of the Armed Forces must continue. I must insist that this organization be translated in the stress placed on the internal war, instead of what used to be until not long ago the external war. I mean, the Armed Forces were concentrated on the borders. For example, there were huge battalions in Santa Rosa on the border with Bolivia....

[De Althaus, interrupting] They are listening to you in Ecuador, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Or in Talara or Novitos. He had huge battalions there. My government's foreign policy has sought to increase the ties of friendship and trust with our neighboring countries, setting aside tanks and cannons and replacing them with tractors and machinery for the development of the people, as I stated to the Ecuadoran Congress, and as we are doing right now. We are organizing the uses of the Armed Forces. That accounts for some of the success we are obtaining in the military front.

[Vargas] Will this organization of the Armed Forces continue to make them stronger, more solid, and also smaller?

[Fujimori] To make it more functional and more adequate for current needs. To cite an example, the image of the Armed Forces in their pacification tasks has changed totally thanks to their actions. The strategy in guiding the Armed Forces has undergone a complete overhaul.

[Vargas] When will the annexes that were not published yesterday be published?

[Fujimori] I hope the joint command will forward those annexes to us. By the way, this law or legislative decree on the military law and the regulations of Article 58 originated from the military command; it was not drafted by the government.

[Vargas] This is "Saturday Focus"; we will be back following a station break. [station break] This is the "Saturday Focus" program on Radio Programs. Our topic: An X-ray of the foiled coup. Our guest: the president of the republic. Our panel asks the questions.

By the way, Mr. President, Jaime's question was left unanswered and I am sure it interests many people. It was on your adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos. Could you please answer that question?

[Fujimori] I have said many times that Mr. Montesinos is an intelligence official. His responsibilities are in this field. It is not true—as has been rumored—that he selects the officers who are to be promoted. In the two years of my administration, I have left the decision on promotions to the respective evaluating commissions. The evaluation commissions are appointed for this purpose. Of course, those and all promotions are influenced by subjective and other factors. At times, the commissions' decisions are considered unfair by a few people. This could be true. However, I believe journalists and citizens in general know me well enough by now. I am not going to tolerate an adviser altering my decision regarding a specific person's promotion. It is not my character...

[De Althaus, interrupting] Mr. President, forgive me for interrupting. When you prepare the list, for example, of the officers who are going to be retired—there have been several reductions during your administration—somebody counsels you on the matter and tells you who

is to be dismissed. It is known that this adviser is this very Vladimiro Montesinos.

[Fujimori] The advisers, as well as the proposals, are sent by every corps command. Each command proposes the senior generals who are to be retired. The president of the republic only accepts or rejects the proposal. This is a very common procedure.

[Vargas] Alejandro Sakuda will ask the next question.

[Sakuda] Mr. President, I ask myself—a bit on the line of Jaime de Althaus' concern—if the sector of the Armed Forces which currently is displeased could not have prompted this action to draw attention. It cannot be denied that a document signed by a movement called (Comac) has been circulating at least since August. The movement undoubtedly would include commanders, mayors, and captains. The question is the following: Will the government attend the military sector's unrest? Also, how deep are officers implicated in the attempted coup? It has been said that even captains are involved. What will happen afterward? Will the Army be restructured? What is the future of this action?

[Fujimori] I do not plan to restructure the Army, not by any means. The Army is working well and the results say it all. The struggle against terrorism and the pacification effort deserve support not only from the government, but also from the people. This is an extraordinary task, and the body of officers and the Armed Forces now feel supported by their president, by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. For the first time in many years we have the political resolve to defeat terrorism, especially the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and the Shining Path.

Now, with regard to (Comac), (Comac) is an invention. It has been propped up by the publicity that several magazines have given it. It is an invention concocted by Gen. Salinas. He is the one who writes the so-called (Comac) communiques. Perhaps there are a few commanders, mayors, and captains involved. I have mentioned their names already. There are, however, hundreds or thousands of officers who are doing their jobs and fully complying with their obligations under the command of their commander general. There is absolutely no breach in military discipline. On the contrary, the officers fully identify with the task of defeating terrorism. I believe it has united the Armed Forces, and once the pacification effort has been completed, the armed institution will have better times and a well-deserved lifestyle.

[Sakuda] Mr. President, you have said that documents have been seized from Gen. Salinas and that one of them was a political announcement. Do the documents implicate political parties or politicians? If so, who are they?

[Fujimori] I cannot make announcements yet. The document, for example, says political parties will be called and gives the day and the hour in which this would happen. This appears in the document and still is not conclusive. Undoubtedly, there is a black hand behind all this. The coup had to be politically motivated. It was an attempt to recover interests and privileges.

[Sakuda] Will the seized documents be revealed?

[Fujimori] Several documents could be revealed but others, obviously, cannot.

[Vargas] Mr. President, let us talk a bit about the punishments to be given.

[Fujimori] No, pardon me. I have just explained that Gen. Salinas is being held at a cell at the Special Forces Division. He was arrested at shortly after 0300 on 13 November.

[Vargas] None of the implicated persons are out of the country, then?

[Fujimori] None of them.

[Vargas] What punishment do you expect?

[Fujimori] It must follow the normal legal procedure. We have laws for this, but we must determine if this is to be handled by a military or a civilian court.

[Vargas] We thank you for all the many details you have given us regarding what we have described as an X-ray of the coup. We also would like to discuss other current topics with you. You are a mathematician, right?

[Fujimori] I tried to be.

[Vargas] You taught mathematics. You must know better than I about symmetry or asymmetry. I could tell you democracy is asymmetrical because it contains elements of equality, possibility, justice, and a host of other elements. Within the framework of democracy, a citizen can be elected president and reelected for his good actions. Since we are talking about democracy in terms of symmetry, the mandate also can be revoked, and the president cannot be reelected. I would like to bring the topic of reelection to the fore. If there has been talk of reelection—and you have your own viewpoint on reelection—why not talk of revoking the mandate of the president? Why not include the concepts of the reelection and revocation of the president's mandate in the next constitution? Do you like this topic?

[Fujimori] Fine. Pose your direct and specific question.

[Vargas] Should we include within the concept of the reelection of the president, which is to be added to the constitution to be drafted next year, the revocation of the president's mandate? What do you say?

[Fujimori] Regulatory mechanisms must exist so the country can be governed within a system that allows permanent development. Thinking out loud, I would say that if it is a president surrounded by corruption, or by one who tries to take advantage of his position or to make money by peddling influence, naturally we would have to be drastic.

[Vargas] And topple him?

[Fujimori] And topple him.

[Vargas] Revoke his mandate, just as well as reelect him.

[Fujimori] Of course.

[Vargas] Do you propose, then, that these two concepts be written into the constitution?

[Fujimori] I am not proposing the president's reelection or the revocation of mandate. Right now, I am the president. My stance on the topic of reelection has been clear. I wanted to comment on the questions. The same thing would apply to the revocation of the mandate. My view is this: If the majority of the people support reelection or revocation of the mandate, I repeat, if the majority feels this way, I feel that view must prevail. Why, I wonder, should a group of 80, 200, or 240 impose its views on the people? Where are we? What are we seeking? Are we not saying that the people must....

[Vargas, interrupting] The people are sovereign.

[Fujimori] The people are sovereign, and yet we let this group decide on a case such as this? Here is a another comment, which I have read in the newspapers: Congressmen represent the voice of the people, and if the people, however, support reelection or revocation of the mandate, the lawmakers must represent that voice. There is clear contradiction that seeks to distort this view, and I am not talking based on my own interests. That could happen perfectly well....

[Vargas, interrupting] For that reason, would you propose a referendum for these two concepts?

[Fujimori] Of course. Congressmen must handle key topics, and to do that—since we are saying this will be a representative democracy—they must represent the people.

[Vargas] Some of your remarks have caused great concern for those participating in the elections to the CCD. With only eight days, a week to go before the elections, you said—and please confirm if you said this or not—you would dissolve the CCD again should there be any major or powerful reason for it in the future. Do you not think that to say this before the elections is cause for concern, considering we are on the path to restoring our democratic institutions and regaining credibility in the political sphere?

[Fujimori] The question should be posed to the EL COMERCIO reporter who posed the question. I did not say....

[Vargas, interrupting] That is why I was careful to pose that question.

[Fujimori] If you want an answer, go ask EL COMERCIO, which said that; I did not say it. I proposed that the Peruvian Constitution, as is the case in other modern democracies in Europe, should empower the president to dissolve the congress. This is the term used, in fact. How many dissolutions of congresses have we seen in Europe as a normal procedure? This normal procedure could be incorporated into the constitution. However, I have not said I will dissolve the CCD; that is what a newspaper said, and it is speculation. That is why I repeat we would have to ask EL COMERCIO, which said it.

[Vargas] So it is good that you ask for more elements to be added to the Constitution. The Constitution of 1979 does offer a way for the president to participate in, for example, dissolving the Chamber of Deputies. Is that right?

[Fujimori] That is right.

[Vargas] In the case of a rejection of three consecutive councils of ministers, say? Well, then, a question from Ricardo Uceda:

[Uceda] I would like to ask if the chiefs of each military region will issue a communique? On other occasions, much less serious than this one, these regional chiefs have been summoned and have issued a communique expressing support for their government. Will this happen now?

[Fujimori] I believe that, in principle, such a communique is unnecessary in this case because the chain of command is intact, very united, and with total respect for the authority of each other....

[Uceda, interrupting] Why were there communiques on the other occasions?

[Fujimori] I suppose the regional chiefs will express their support and solidarity for General Hermoza. The president of the republic has no say in such a case.

[Vargas] A question from Jaime de Althaus. You might want to take this opportunity to examine other current issues, perhaps. You are free to ask.

[De Althaus] Taking advantage of the fact that we are linked with Colombia, I would like to ask about drug trafficking. This is the area in which I feel we have advanced the least. There is evident progress in the struggle against inflation and in fighting subversion, but regarding drug trafficking it would seem we have even fallen back. We moved forward with enthusiasm on the agreement with the United States. This issue, however, apparently has been forgotten: The alliance with the coca growers and their contribution as mediators and such; the crop substitution or alternate development plan has practically been set aside. We have reports, which we have not yet been able to confirm, but our correspondents have told us that spike is being sprayed, for example, in large amounts over the jungle. There is a type of fungi as well, which is killing all the plantations, and no one seems to know if it is synthetic, natural, or manufactured in laboratories. However, coca still has not disappeared with this action, production continues to increase, there are ever more shipments heading north, there are no substitution crops, and any military

action we take will serve only to push the coca growers closer to the guerrillas. What is being done and what will be done in this area?

[Fujimori] Apparently it would seem there has been no progress. I refer now to spectacular progress. However, there are concrete facts that indicate that there is an antidrug policy. In effect, we signed a very important agreement with the U.S. Government which places more emphasis on controlling the supply of coca leaves. All details of this plan were presented to the U.S. Government. Unfortunately, the strategy in the United States has been directed more toward a repressive type of struggle by using either spike [word as heard] or repressive measures against the coca growers.

[Uceda] Is it true that a large amount of spike has been sprayed? I have been told that 40,000 acres have been sprayed.

[Fujimori] I do not have the specific information on that matter. When we have spoken to the authorities in Santa Lucia, we have been told it has been done on an experimental basis. It is true there is a fungi destroying not only the coca crops, but food crops as well, and we are performing a technical investigation of this. We do not know its precise origin. There has been progress, first in repression against drug trafficking, in the search, arrest, and even the shooting down of planes transporting coca leaves. This has been possible thanks to the fact the Air Force has taken control of the main coca plantation areas. Unfortunately, this is an unequal struggle. To put it into figures, let us say $50 million is spent by the Peruvian Government, while the other side spends $1.5 billion and has a huge and almost unlimited capacity. You understand this. When the government takes some measures, the drug traffickers respond with actions that have much impact because of the sums of money they handle. Nevertheless, the Armed Forces fortunately maintain an awareness and they are implementing a strategy that I think is getting results.

I want to mention two aspects that are not seen as spectacular actions. First, the Armed Forces, particularly the Army, are repairing roads in the main coca areas. We have always defended the idea that the farmers must be given the opportunity to market their crops. One of the limiting factors has been precisely the lack of roads to take their products to market and obtain high profits. One of the engineer battalions is building the Juanjui-Tocache-Tingo Maria road. This road had been completely destroyed, but they have repaired at least 50 km. All of the people in this area support this type of project. At the beginning of my administration, it took 20-30 days to travel the Tarapoto-Pedro Ruiz-Bagua-Chiclayo road. It now takes two days, thanks to the work of the Army engineer battalions. You do not hear in any media reports that in such and such warehouse in San Martin there are sacks of rice piling up and spoiling.

[Vargas] [Words indistinct] rice or cocaine?

[Fujimori] No, that is false. Rice and corn are grown and they are taken out this road on vehicles owned by [word indistinct] rice company and the other company of the corn growers. These are the actions that are benefiting these farmers. Nevertheless, the hectares of cultivated coca continue to be approximately 200,000. Not a single hectare has been reduced. As I said in the 1980's, this has increased tenfold. In reality, the anticoca policy has failed in the world. It has not had any results. Statements saying that this or that action have had results are not based on reality. We have to say this to the public.

[Vargas] With regard to the anticoca policy, what will your relationship be like with Bill Clinton, the recently elected Democratic U.S. president? Do you want to establish a more or less interesting relationship, like that which you maintained with President Bush? Will the topic of the drug trafficking agreement be renewed and under what conditions and with what characteristics?

[Fujimori] Allow me to finish the previous question. Another example of how we have advanced in this strategy against coca is repression. The strategy of repression in the past meant that the police entered the fields or the houses of the coca growers in an indiscriminate manner and the coca growers were treated like criminals. With the new strategy they no longer are treated like criminals, but as peasant farmers. Obviously in the transition process, some repressive actions might occur which run counter to this concept. But there has been significant progress here which has allowed us to fight the Shining Path and the MTRA at the same time. This is because these producers no longer need to resort to defenders or mercenaries for their protection. So there has been progress here also. I could say the same for Valle de la Purima and (Yelenen), where we are constructing roads and the San Francisco airstrip.

Of course, Peru and my government are especially interested in fighting drug trafficking, but we need to do so efficiently, not just rhetorically or through political publicity. The efficient way to fight drug trafficking, from the Peruvian point of view, has to do with the availability of the coca leaf. Regrettably, we have not received financing from the U.S. counterpart. We hope to continue with this effort and feel sure that we will have the understanding of our counterpart during Mr. Clinton's administration. I believe that this is a worldwide issue, but I have always maintained that one of the most important battles in the fight against drug trafficking must be waged in Peru.

[Vargas] Do you think things may change with Mr. Clinton in office? Do you hold any hopes? Do you expect that....

[Fujimori, interrupting] I never loose optimism in the objectives I set for myself. I am always optimistic and I hope for things to get better and better, and that we do not remain at a standstill in this enormous problem for mankind.

[Vargas] Do you wish to ask a question?

[De Althaus] Well, I wanted to ask if you would have preferred Mr. Bush to have won, as Minister Bologna suggested?

[Fujimori] I believe the bilateral relationship between Peru and the United States is not such a personal matter, but one of common interests, no matter if it is the Bush or the Clinton administration. Given the stand of the American people on this issue, either administration must be efficient in managing the fight against this curse.

[Vargas] Here is Alejandro Sakuda.

[Sakuda] What was the meaning of the visit by the U.S. charge d'affaires shortly after you returned to the government palace yesterday?

[Fujimori] It has no meaning at all. I did not meet with this gentleman.

[Vargas] This is another explanation.

[Fujimori] Allow me to explain to the country. We did not meet. He came to discuss other topics with some government officials. I have not had any contact with him. In addition, the meeting was scheduled days ago.

[Sakuda] So it is true that he was there.

[Fujimori] That he was....

[Sakuda, interrupting] That he was in the government palace.

[Fujimori] Pardon me, you mean, the U.S. representative? Yes, of course. He did not meet with me, though.

[Sakuda] To end, Mr. President, have other countries voiced their concern? Have other presidents gotten in contact with you?

[Fujimori] Not directly.

[Vargas] This is the last question: Will the full honesty of the 22 elections be guaranteed?

[Fujimori] I do not want to say that I guarantee it because it is obvious. I do not have to offer guarantees because I would be supposing there is an attempt to commit fraud, as some are saying. Precisely because there is no such intention, I have no reason to make this kind of assertion. The people know how to vote and who to vote for. The procedure is clear, and it is in the hands of the National Election Board.

[Vargas] That is right. At approximately what time do you plan to vote for Jaime Yoshiyama next Sunday?

[Fujimori] You have guessed how I plan to vote. [laughter]

[Vargas] One does not need be a mind reader.

[Fujimori] You are a good psychologist. [laughter] I plan to vote at approximately 0900. The truth is that I have not found out where I should vote, but I suppose it will be at the Maria Molinari School. You can recall that small classroom where we were all crowded.

[Vargas] Since you are not an election official you do not have to worry about it. As president, you are not obligated to find out tomorrow where your polling place is. It has been nice talking to you on "Saturday Focus," and recalling your participation in the election of 1990.

[Fujimori] Thank you, Mr. Vargas and other reporters, for allowing me to feel free to speak honestly without any limitations. I think it is very important to explain things and tell the truth to the people and the country. Thank you for the opportunity that Radio Programas del Peru has given me.

High Command 'Discontent' Noted Over Decree

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[Text] Lima, 13 Nov (EFE)— Political sources have announced that Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's urgent move at dawn on 13 November from the Government Palace to the Defense Ministry in Lima was due to the military high command's discontent over the publication of a decree law on military retirements.

President Fujimori and his family were moved in an "unusual" manner at 0300 (0800 GMT) on 13 November to the Defense Ministry by a group of officers led by a commander given an order that called for the head of state to appear before the military high command, according to EFE's political sources.

Almost 10 hours after the president's transfer to the Defense Ministry in San Borja, a residential area east of Lima, an official communique has not yet been released stating the reasons for the transfer.

At the Government Palace, a spokesman for the Presidency Press Secretariat told EFE that an official communique will be released within the next few hours and that President Fujimori is still at the military installation.

The official newspaper EL PERUANO on 13 November published Legislative Decree No. 752 that establishes the retirement of Army, Navy, and Air Force officers for the "purpose of renewal."

The decree points out that "retirement for the purpose of renewal may include arms, command and service officers from the ranks of major and navy lieutenant commander up to division general, vice admiral and lieutenant general, in accordance with the needs established by each institution."

The decree adds that this situation will be regulated to specify a minimum and maximum number for each rank of arms, command and service officers, and that a commission has been appointed to formulate the regulation plan. The decree was signed by President Fujimori

and the Defense Minister, General Victor Malca Villanueva, an Army general regarded as very close to the Peruvian president.

The decree gives Fujimori full power to decide which officers can be discharged. This could have caused the unrest among the officers.

In addition, the dissatisfaction of the high-ranking military officers could have been caused by Fujimori's stand regarding an embezzlement, involving millions, perpetrated in the United States by Peruvian Navy officers.

On 8 November, Fujimori said his government will punish severely those responsible for the fraud and that "it is impossible for the top Navy officers not to have learned of this occurrence during the five years that it happened."

The president also said his government is considering the possibility of signing legislation permitting the reduction in rank of, or waiving the penalty befitting, retired Navy Lieutenant Commander Enrique Villagarcia, the officer who reported the incident.

On 10 November, Navy Commander Admiral Alfredo Arnaiz, was summoned to witness for the Attorney General's Office in Washington regarding the embezzlement of approximately $11 million perpetrated by the Peruvian Military Attache's office in the United States from 1984 t0 1990.

Arnaiz and the Army commander, General Nicola de Bari Hermoza, as well as other high-ranking officers, are participating in a meeting with Fujimori since early this morning, according to political sources.